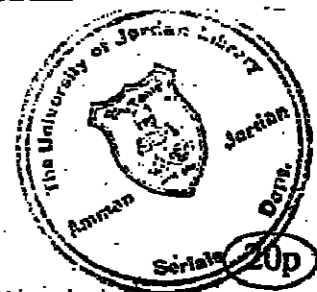


# THE TIMES

No 62,028

SATURDAY JANUARY 5 1985



## Portfolio

### £22,000 to be won

There is £22,000 to be won in The Times Portfolio competition today - the weekly prize of £20,000, together with today's daily prize of £2,000. Yesterday's £2,000 prize was shared by three winners, Mr John Yeaman of London, Mr David Stokes of London and Mr Patrick Hennessy of Ashington, Sussex, each received £666.66p. Portfolio list, page 20; price changes, information service, back page.

## Pressure on pound is lifted

The pound gained 43 points to \$1.1538 because foreign exchange dealers are expecting a rise in bank base rates next week. But most building societies may be able to delay a rise in mortgage rates after net inflows last month are expected to have totalled a record £1 billion. Page 21

## Inquiry told of A-test burns

Former British servicemen told the Australian royal commission investigating British nuclear bomb tests that they displayed heat burns on their necks after the explosions and considered contamination a joke rather than dangerous. Page 2

## Doctors warned on skin drug

A government watchdog body warned doctors to weigh the risk of prescribing Ketoconazole after reports that five people have died and 77 others suffered liver damage after taking the widely-used drug for fungal skin infections. Page 3

## Baby murders

At least eight babies were murdered by heart drug overdoses at a Toronto hospital, an inquiry into 36 mysterious deaths has concluded. Page 5

## Surrogate birth

Mrs Kim Cotton became Britain's first surrogate mother last night when she gave birth to a 7lb 13oz girl at 7.26pm in Victoria Maternity Hospital, Barnet, north London.

## Threat to FT

Production of the Financial Times is threatened from next Wednesday after union negotiators rejected the management's "final" offer to resolve a pay and manning dispute. Page 2

## Ferries sold

European Ferries, owners of Townsend Thoresen, is buying one of its main competitors, Anglo-French ferries, run by P & O. Page 2

## Princes St plan

A £40 million plan to transform part of the North British Hotel, Princes Street, Edinburgh, into a shopping precinct, leisure centre and night club has been approved by planners. Page 21

## On this day . . .

Today's selection from news reports from The Times of the past 200 years comes from the issue of January 5, 1932, when people patriotically queued to pay their income tax early. Page 9

## French offer

France is expected to offer New Caledonia independence as a French associated state, Bismarck suggests that the mainly European capital, Noumea, would have special status. Page 5

## Everton advance

Goals in each half from Sharp and Sheedy gave Everton a 2-0 win at Leeds and a place in the fourth round of the FA Cup.

## Gavaskar pelted

Sumit Gavaskar, the Indian captain, was pelted with oranges for extending India's first innings until after lunch on the fourth day of the third Test at Calcutta. Page 27

Leader page, 9  
Letters: On scientists, from Sir John Mason, FRS, and Prof J. E. Baldwin, FRS; Government spending, from Mr Aubrey Jones.  
Leading articles: Ethiopian Jews; Geneva arms talks; no boards for computer workers.  
Obituary, page 10  
Mr I. O. Chance, Mr Anthony Masters, Lady Stewart of Alvechurch

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## Measles, dysentery and starvation in Sudan camps

# Mass airlift threatened by Ethiopian regime

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Operation Moses, Israel's daring airlift of Ethiopia's 25,000 black Jews, is due to be completed by the end of next month, provided this week's premature disclosure has not jeopardized the delicate diplomatic arrangements involved. Senior Israeli medical sources told The Times yesterday that the intention had been to keep the scheme under wraps until the arrival of the last of Ethiopia's stricken Falashas at the end of February. Last night, it was still hoped that the next plane-load of refugees would arrive at Tel Aviv airport within 48 hours.

There was concern among doctors and leaders of Ethiopia's Jewish community in Israel that the sensitive Sudanese link in the airlift might be threatened by the publicity. This was heightened after bitter condemnation from Addis Ababa. Ethiopia's Foreign Ministry described the exodus as "illegal and clandestine" and accused Sudan and other unnamed foreign powers of conspiracy.

Leading article 9  
The Trek 30  
More photographs 30

It demanded an immediate halt to the operation which it dismissed as sinister and gross interference in its internal affairs. It accused President Nimeiry of Sudan of accepting financial inducements to cooperate.

At least some aircraft are believed first to have stopped at a European destination en route to Tel Aviv, from where the Ethiopians have been shuttled in buses with shuttered windows to a temporary transit camp in the Mediterranean town of Ashkelon.

No precise estimates are available here, but it is believed that about 7,000 Falashas are still making their way to the Sudanese border.

Mr Arye Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency, said the airlift would take a few weeks to complete and denied that the leaking of information had been a "disaster" although he acknowledged it had been a little risky. "This is such a great humanitarian operation that it would create an enormous scandal in the world if someone was to dare to stop it."

Strict military censorship was lifted after Mr Yehuda Dominitz, director-general of the agency's immigration de-



A Falasha family in a Sudan refugee camp wait to begin their journey to Khartoum

## Haphazard journey to Promised Land

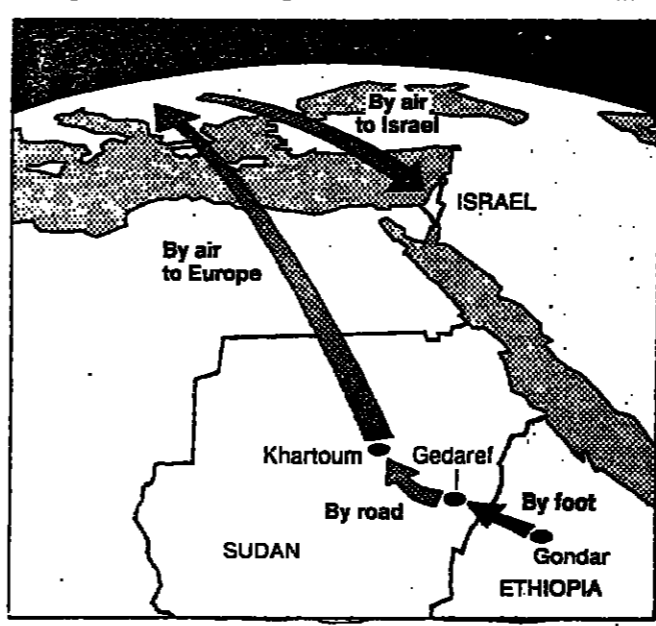
Last month Tudor Parfitt, a lecturer at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London University, visited Sudan and Ethiopia to study the alleged persecution of the Ethiopian Jews by their Christian and Marxist compatriots. When he arrived he discovered that he had stumbled across a clandestine international operation to transport thousands of African Jews to a new home in Israel.

By Tudor Parfitt

Throughout the summer of last year rumours persistently reached me that thousands of Ethiopian Jews had left their traditional homeland in the remote mountains of Gondar Province in northern Ethiopia and were on the move. I decided to visit the area to discover what had happened to the people known to their fellow Ethiopians as falashas, or "strangers" and whom some Jews believe to be one of the lost tribes of Israel.

It was in the refugee camps near Gedaraf in eastern Sudan that I first learned that they were now leaving the camps and were finding their way to Israel in one of the most dramatic migrations in the history of the Jewish people.

The Sudanese camps along the border contained many thousands of refugees from Ethiopia, the biggest majority of whom were Christians who had little hope of moving out of the pitifully inadequate concentrations of grass huts known as tukuls. It was from these people that the story slowly emerged that certain of their fellows were being transported in



trucks out of the camps at dead of night. The Christian Ethiopians whispered that they were being taken to their homeland - Israel.

Later it emerged that the trucks were bound for Khartoum airport and charter flights to various European destinations, from which they would be transferred to Tel Aviv.

It was the final stage in a remarkable journey which had begun in the spring of last year when around 10,000 Falashas, for whom the famine and persecution by their Christian and Marxist countrymen had become intolerable, left what little they had behind them in the Gondar mountains.

It was not clear why they chose that moment to leave one famine-stricken area and make a desperate trek across 100 miles of some of the most dangerous and difficult terrain in Africa to the drought-stricken plains of Sudan. But reports from Falashas now in Israel suggested that that emissaries had been sent to them to announce that their

## 'Missile' apology from Moscow

By Rodney Cowton in London and Olli Kivinen in Helsinki

The Soviet Union yesterday apologized to the Finnish and Norwegian Governments for the incident a week ago in which Russia violated Finnish and Norwegian airspace. Meanwhile, unofficial observers in northern Scandinavia claimed that the intruder had been pursued by two high speed jet aircraft, and was probably shot down by one of them, with the debris falling inside Russian territory.

The Russian expression of "regret", which was conveyed by their ambassadors in Helsinki and Oslo, raised doubts about the nature of the intruder. Official Norwegian sources had identified it as a cruise missile, probably an SSN3 Sharrock, but in their apology the Russians described it as a flying drone, used for firing practice, which had gone off course because of a technical defect.

The unofficial observers claim that the missile, if that is what it was, was first spotted about 30 miles out to sea north east of Kirkenes. According to them it was, at that stage, pursued by two jets, but one of them turned away as it reached the coast near the village of Grense Jakobselv on the Norwegian side of the border with Russia.

They say the other aircraft continued to pursue the missile and shot it down. The identity of the aircraft is not known, but the circumstances would point strongly to their being Russian.

An official Norwegian defence source, however, denied yesterday that there was any evidence of aircraft pursuing the missile. He said there was a single, clear signal on the radar. Initially this had been thought to be an aircraft, but after double-checking it was concluded that it was a cruise missile.

Mr Christopher Prebensen, Director General of the Press and Information Department in the Norwegian Defence Ministry, said that the flying object had been picked up by Norwegian radar well outside Norwegian airspace and had been tracked. It had been immediately reported to Norwegian headquarters and passed through channels to Nato headquarters in Norway. It is known that no Norwegian aircraft were scrambled to intercept the missile, but Finnish interceptors are said to have arrived on the scene about 15 minutes after the missile's flight.

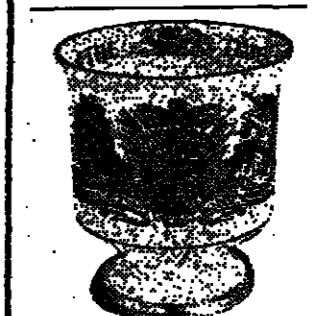
The passage of the missile is reported to have been seen by ground staff working at Kirkenes airport, and there is concern that it could have constituted a hazard for civil air traffic.

According to observers in Helsinki it is unusual for the Soviet Union publicly to express regret for a border incident.

## Inside



Not worth the gamble  
The unappealing face of a race meeting at Royal Windsor Page 8



Presenting The Times  
Collectors' items to celebrate our bicentenary Page 15

Faraway places  
The holiday delights of Hong Kong, Japan and the Caribbean Pages 12 and 13



Monday  
The start of a three-part series on the uneasy peace in the islands



New battle for the Falklands  
The start of a three-part series on the uneasy peace in the islands

Breakfast sparkle  
Selina Scott talks about the stresses of early morning television

Another bicentenary  
Sarah Hogg argues that 1785 could well have been the year of the Industrial Revolution

## Be firm on Star Wars, Shultz told

From Christopher Thomas Washington

President Reagan gave Mr George Shultz, Secretary of State, final instructions yesterday on America's strategy of "flexibility and patience" during his arms talks in Geneva on Monday and Tuesday with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister. But he reiterated that there must be no concession on his controversial, multi-billion dollar "Star Wars" research programme.

Mr Reagan briefed congressional leaders on his expectations for the talks, which he hopes will result in agreement to reopen arms control negotiations. Ideally, the United States wants to enter two sets of negotiations: one for offensive weapons, the other for defensive systems.

In future talks on offensive weapons the US will want to maintain a distinction between intermediate range missiles which are of greatest concern to America's European allies - and long range missiles. In the past there have been separate talks on these two different types of weapon.

The US expects Mr Gromyko to call for an immediate ban on Star Wars research. This will be turned down.

The Soviet Foreign Minister is also expected to call for a moratorium on the development and deployment of weapons in space. This, too, will be turned down. The United States believes it would be premature to negotiate any restraints on deployment, simply because deployment is years away. But the US is emphasizing that it is willing to be flexible in negotiations on limiting offensive arms, such as missiles carrying nuclear warheads. Leading article, page 9

## Joseph speech angers teachers

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, repeated his belief yesterday that legislation might be needed to ensure that teachers' performance was assessed.

In a speech to the North of England education conference in Chester in which he called for improvements in the management and professionalism of 600,000 teachers and university and college lecturers, Sir Keith said that meant proper training, as well as appraising teachers and lecturers' competence.

"The total annual pay bill for those teachers is around £7,000m. The teacher force is a very large national investment. Measures to improve the quality of the management of that investment, and the professionalism of the teachers themselves, are without question matters of the highest national importance."

Repeating his view, made public last October that legis-

## 'Professionalism must be improved'

## Joseph speech angers teachers

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

lation might be needed to create a national framework for appraising performance, he said requirements that local authorities should appraise the teachers' performance. "That requirement might be accompanied by guidance on how the appraisal might be carried out."

That idea was condemned by the National Union of Teachers, the biggest teachers' organization with 350,000 members, which torpedoed talks last month aimed at introducing a new system of assessment linked to pay.

Mr Fred Jarvis, NUT general secretary, said Sir Keith's views on appraisal harked after the head old payment by results system. What was needed was appraisal linked to the professional development of teachers.

Mr Fred Smithies, general secretary of the National As-

## Left faction offers pact to Kinnock

By Anthony Bevin Political Correspondent

A new Labour split developed last night as Tribune, the left-wing weekly, broke free from the influence of Mr Tony Benn and offered Mr Neil Kinnock the hope of a centre-left coalition within the party.

The initiative was immediately welcomed by Mr Michael Meacher, MP a former Benn ally, and it is understood that Mr Kinnock was delighted by the move which might help him to isolate the left-wing hard-liners in the Campaign Group.

Under the front-page headline "Working to win", Tribune took a swipe at Mr Benn for calling for a general strike, said that union leaders could give little positive help to the miners without the support of their members, argued that "breaking the law should not be some kind of litmus test of socialist commitment", and added that any attempt to challenge Mr Kinnock for the leadership "would be a futile gesture".

But the paper said that a centre-left powerbase could be built for Mr Kinnock only if he ditched the centre-right alliance, which dominated the shadow cabinet and the national executive, resisted any attempt to reopen the one-member, one-vote issue, endorsed properly selected Labour candidates and refused to back right-wing pressure for disciplinary action against Militant.

It is understood that Mr Meacher, a Tribune director and shadow cabinet member, and Mr Tom Sawyer, of the National Union of Public Employees, and Mr David Blunkett, leader of Sheffield council, both members of the national executive, have together agreed that a new approach is needed by the left.

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## Skiers' delight in icy blast

By Barbara Day

Good skiing awaits travellers able to reach the main European resorts this weekend. But they must first cope with icy roads and, if their journey includes a ferry, take their chances of beating the blockade by striking French seamen.

The London Weather Centre said it would be very cold throughout the country, with snow showers in the East and patches of freezing fog in the West. The AA and the RAC warned of extremely hazardous driving conditions and warned motorists to take special care.

As the French seamen's dispute continued, all the ferry companies predicted some disruption to services and advised travellers to check the latest position before setting out.

The Sally Line said that services were running behind schedule and there were some cancellations but it was continuing to set through into Dunkirk. Townsend Thoresen, which had been diverting to Zeebrugge, said yesterday it was now providing a service into Calais although there were "slight disruptions".

P & O ferries were continuing to get through to Boulogne, but Sealink ferries were unable to enter Calais, Dunkirk, or Boulogne and were diverting some services to Ostend.

A spokesman for the Freight Transport Association said that lorry drivers were managing to avoid delays by using Belgian

ports. British Airways said that bookings for flights to Paris and other destinations in France were higher than expected and this could be attributed to the ferry disruption.

According to the latest statistics collected by Thomas Cook, the travel company, skiing conditions were good in Switzerland, France, Italy and Spain, though not in Austria.

A snowfall in Italy snow was 140cm deep on the upper slopes and 90cm at Avoriaz and Morzine in France and 80cm in Anzerce and Crans Montana in Switzerland. The best figures for Austria were in Kitzbuhel where the snow depths ranged from 10cm on the lower slopes to 50cm on the upper slopes.

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السنة 1405

# European Ferries to buy P & O's cross-Channel service in £12.5m deal

By Jonathan Davis, Business Correspondent

European Ferries, Britain's most successful cross-Channel ferry operator, is making a fresh attempt to increase its share of the Channel ferry market by buying one of its main competitors.

The company, which operates under the Townsend Thoresen name, said yesterday that it has agreed to purchase the Anglo-French ferry operations run by Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation. P & O is the third largest British ferry operator after European Ferries and Sealink, the former British Rail subsidiary which was sold last summer to the shipping company, Sea Containers, as part of the Government's privatization programme.

Under the terms of yesterday's deal, European Ferries will pay £12.5 million for P & O's Dover/Boulogne and Portsmouth/La Havre operations. Five ships will change hands, with P & O keeping its other British ferry operations, including its routes to Holland.

The latest move by European Ferries comes after attempts to takeover Sealink, which have twice been blocked by the Government on competition grounds after being referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The Office of Fair Trading said last night that it would be studying the new deal to determine whether it should be referred to the Monopolies Commission again.

According to European Ferries, the acquisition will increase its share of the cross-channel passenger, freight and car ferry market from 38 per cent to 46 per cent.

On some routes the share of the market will be even higher, according to City analysts, the deal will give European Ferries more than 50 per cent of the Dover crossing market, the biggest single ferry route.

Mr Kenneth Siddle, chairman of European Ferries, acknowledged that the OFT could try to block the deal but said he did not expect any objections on competition grounds. "There is no way in which we are trying to create a cosy cartel, let alone a monopoly," he said.

Sir Jeffrey Sterling, chairman of P & O, was also quoted as saying he did not anticipate any difficulties. P & O's cross-Channel ferry operations have been losing money steadily.

The cross-Channel ferry operations are estimated to have made a loss of more than £4 million in the first half of the current financial year for P & O.

European Ferries said it will be studying how it plans to absorb the new business in the next few weeks. A question mark inevitably hangs over the future of some of the 1,100 employees who work on P & O's cross-Channel operations.

Another issue that has also to be resolved is what happens to the shareholder perk scheme run by P & O, which gave its shareholders the chance to travel half price on its Channel ferries.

Kenneth Fleet, page 21

# Australian bomb tests inquiry

# Servicemen 'joked about nuclear burns'



By Pat Healy

Former British servicemen yesterday told the Australian royal commission investigating British nuclear bomb tests that they proudly displayed heat burns on their necks after the explosion and thought being contaminated was funny rather than dangerous.

The commission, headed by Mr Justice James McClelland, is taking evidence as part of its inquiry into the tests in Australia between 1952 and 1963.

Ex-servicemen told the inquiry yesterday that they worked during the explosions in temperatures up to 120°F without protective clothing and developed abscesses on their bodies on the return voyage to Britain.

Mr Denis Tilling, aged 48, from Whitchurch, Shropshire, who was at Maralinga, South Australia, in 1957 as an RAF driver, said volunteers "jumped at the chance" to go into the test area and were stationed five or six miles from the explosion. "When they came back to the camp the volunteers were showing off their red necks caused by their nearness to the explosion."

"There was no explanation at all by the authorities about the effects of radiation," he said. It was considered funny rather than serious by the servicemen if somebody was contaminated. On his voyage home he suffered abscesses on his arms, wrists and hips.

Mr George Owen, of Ruan, Cheshire, told the commission that he had helped bury radioactive landrovers, tippy lorries and other vehicles in a bomb crater after explosions at Maralinga. The vehicles were burnt before being buried.

The crater was covered with four inches of top soil, but dust blew it away.

Before he had arrived in the area, he said contaminated Canberra aircraft had been buried in a similar way. Mr Owen said his health had been good since his discharge from the Royal Engineers, except for small growths all over his fingers.

He said he and other servicemen had worked without protective covering as temperatures rose to 120°F. "We were allowed to take the protective gear off. We were not told it was dangerous to do so."

The commission was also told that a signal demanding "What the bloody hell is going on, the cloud is drifting over the mainland?" was sent by the Australian Prime Minister to the British Prime Minister within hours of a test at the Monte Belle Islands, Western Australia, in 1956.

The signal came direct from Sydney, Mr Bernard Perkins, a former Royal Navy radio operator then serving onboard HMS Narvik, told the commission.

Mr Perkins told the commission he had watched the explosion from on deck and had seen the cloud going towards the mainland.

Mr Justice McClelland said he was "shocked to think that Sir Robert Menzies (then the Australian Prime Minister) could use language like that."

Colonel Peter Lowe, who retired from the British Army in 1974, described how the tank in which he and two other officers were observing the test at Maralinga had been moved at least 10 feet sideways by the blast.

The hearings were adjourned until Monday.

Chris Harris's photograph shows Mr Justice McClelland (third from left) presiding at the hearing at the St James's Conference and Press Centre, London, yesterday.

# Ideology blamed for errors in education

By David Lister of The Times Educational Supplement

Ideological policies by both Conservative and Labour governments that were ill thought-out have badly harmed Britain's education system, Professor Denis Lawton, director of London University Institute of Education, said last night.

He told a Cambridge meeting of the National Council for Educational Standards that the educational policies of both parties were too influenced by ideology and had led to serious mistakes.

He said: "It was a mistake of the Labour Party to abolish grammar schools without clearly setting out the educational and social advantages of comprehensive schools," and added: "I am not arguing against the principle of comprehensive schools. I am talking about timing, preparation and adequate planning."

"Labour Party politicians made the fatal mistake of abolishing grammar schools before tackling the much more serious problem of the public and independent schools. So long as there is a respectable and powerful independent sector, reformers should beware of frightening more and more people into it."

Labour had also been guilty of having pressed on with comprehensive schools before working out a curriculum policy, often leading to unnecessarily large comprehensive schools with no clear policies and an inappropriate structure.

He condemned the present Government for its assisted-places scheme, which helped less well-off children with fees for private schools. It had been seen by many in the state sector as a deliberate weakening of comprehensive schools by creaming-off the most able pupils and sending them to private schools.

This, he said, gave both teachers and parents a clear message that the Government had no confidence in the ability of comprehensive schools to deal with gifted children, or even above-average children, in effect reclassifying comprehensives as secondary modern schools.

# EEC boosts chemical waste fight

From Tim Jones Cardiff

Protest groups in Gwent plan to start a new year inquiry into the disposal of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) waste at the ReChem International plant in South Wales. The inquiry would be partly financed by the EEC.

The groups, working with Mr Llewellyn Smith, European MP for South-east Wales, intend to ask a barrister to lead their inquiry. International experts would be invited.

In a new year message to the company, Mr Smith says that common sense dictates that the company should take immediate steps to stop burning PCB and other dioxin and furin waste products.

For months, the company has been under pressure to stop the disposals. Local groups have said that airborne wastes from the process have caused animals to die and babies to be born with abnormalities.

Mr Smith wrote to the company: "To start the new year with a PCB ban would lift some of the burden of anxiety especially from the minds of expectant parents."

"The new tragic evidence of at least eight cases of rare eye deformities in babies born near your plants and the still unexplained animal deaths are sufficient reason for calling a halt."

A couple living within a few miles of the plant, Mr Keith Bown and his wife Andrea, whose daughter was born with eye deformities, are gathering evidence for a test case court action against the company.

Abigail is one of three children born close to the plant with eye deformities. Four more cases have been recorded near the former Re-Chem plant at Bonnybridge in Scotland, which was closed last year.

The findings of a Scottish Office inquiry into allegations regarding the Bonnybridge plant are awaited.

Mr Arthur Coleman, managing director of Re-Chem, has maintained that none of the "serious and unfounded" allegations made against the company has been proved. The company has produced 13 statements from ministries stating the plant was not responsible for any of the calamities attributed to it.

Mr Coleman has said that if the company was forced to stop PCB disposal it would have a serious effect on profitability and lead to the damaging pollution and risk to health which the protesters were trying to avert.

He said the company would co-operate with a public inquiry. For the past three months, the Welsh Office has been investigating congenital abnormalities in the principality. When the investigation is complete a decision on whether to hold a public inquiry may be taken.

# Joseph angers teachers with assessment speech

Continued from page 1

Sir Keith said that he was often misquoted as saying that he was concerned only with the need to dismiss the very small number of incompetent teachers. "This is not the case. I am concerned with the whole range of positive advantages that would flow from applying to the teacher force standards of management which have become common elsewhere."

Equally controversial were his comments on further education. He said that many lecturers needed to become aware of changes in industry and commerce and of new technologies.

Further education had to provide a broad-based vocational education to equip people for careers; give a general education to some young people and many adults; meet highly specific job-related needs through retraining courses for adults; and provide a pre-vocational grounding to school leavers.

Most colleges were generously staffed, he said at an average student/staff ratio of nine to one. "There will certainly be a need to redeploy within and between colleges if nonadvanced further education is to be truly cost-effective."

The management of these colleges needed to be tightened. "Non-advanced further education is quite expensive in terms of staff, and it is questionable whether the increasingly important outside client, the employer or the Manpower Services Commission, will do business with colleges unless the latter and their staff are prepared to do business in the most flexible and economical way."

Mr Clement Freud, Liberal Party spokesman on education, called on the NUJ to return to talks on salary restructuring.

The third largest teachers' union, the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association, opposed legislation to force appraisal on teachers. The key to staff assessment was to carry the confidence of those taking part, it said.

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Continued from page 1

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# Actions against NUM shelved

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Working miners are unlikely to bring any fresh legal actions against the National Union of Mineworkers and instead hope to maximise the return to work which is expected to gather pace next week.

Lawyers representing groups of working miners at the end of last year were involved in several actions against the union nationally and at area level but they now want to suspend most outstanding actions so as not to divert attention away from the return to work.

The National Coal Board yesterday reported a small increase in the number of striking miners returning to work but it still pinning its hopes on a 'big response' next week when all 174 pits are due back at work after the Christmas and New Year holidays.

The board said that 705 "new faces" had returned during the first three days of the new year, which was higher than during any single week in December although only about 80 former strikers went into the pits yesterday.

With next week seen as crucial to the future of the strike by both the NUM and the NCB it was being suggested by industry sources last night that Monday could see the reopening of hostilities on the picket lines after the Christmas "truce".

The main outstanding court action brought by working miners, to seek orders preventing the 24 members of the NUM executive from taking further action to sustain the strike, will continue soon after the High Court resumes sitting at the end of next week.

But apart from another minor case involving the South Wales NUM there will be a lull and any legal activity is likely to centre on the sequestrators and the receiver now in control of NUM funds. The sequestrators, who are seeking £200,000 of union funds to pay a contempt fine, are due to return to the court on January 16 to report their progress.

They will also report on attempts to halt the flow of money from some unions which is helping the NUM "stay in business".

The Scottish area of the NUM yesterday produced a report strongly criticizing the management of the mining industry and insisting that there was no economic case for closing any Scottish pits (Ronald Faux writes).

The report, by Mr George Kerevan, a senior lecturer in economics at Napier College, Edinburgh, and Mr Richard Saville, a lecturer at St Andrew's University, said that NCB accounting methods were inaccurate and that the board had undertaken a reduction of capacity to cut output to the present soft demand and make way for new "super pits".

Strikers and working miners at Seaford colliery in Fife, yesterday fought to save a production face that had become dangerously overheated, threatening £2 million of equipment.

# Production of FT threatened

Production of the Financial Times is threatened from Wednesday next week after the rejection by union negotiators of a "final" offer to resolve a protracted pay and manning dispute.

The newspaper's management said last night that it intended to proceed with production of a large edition on Wednesday night, although at least one union has said that it will refuse to print the issue until the machine room dispute is settled.

The National Graphical Association has been offered a £37 a week pay rise, with the promise of one extra job each night for the 25 machine minders who supervise the presses. Sogat 82, which represents 78 machine assistants, was offered an extra £32.38 a week and two extra men per night.

The offer was rejected immediately by NGA officials. Sogat members meet on Wednesday.

Senior executives accept that a dispute is likely, but they expect it to be shorter than the 10-week stoppage in 1983, an important part of the background to the dispute.

The unions and management have for several years been negotiating a joint press room agreement to end leapfrogging claims by the two groups.

The management says that it has agreements with the two groups to produce newspapers of more than 40 pages, which involves using a sixth bank of presses, on 157 occasions a year. The newspaper on Wednesday night, it argues, will be the first of this year's allocation.

Union officials say the newspaper, which will be 46 or 48 pages, will not be printed using the sixth bank unless there is an overall agreement in the machine room.

The NGA, whose members earn about £340 a week, had demanded a £100 a week increase, and the hiring of eight extra men a night, while Sogat's claim was for £87.50 extra and 16 extra men. Those claims have been halved.

# Three still held over Libyan case

By Stewart Tendler Crime Reporter

Three men held by Scotland Yard detectives in connection with the flight of a Libyan awaiting trial on a drugs charge were still being questioned yesterday at a London police station.

The men were arrested on Thursday at addresses in Essex, Devon and Hertfordshire, by detectives from the anti-terrorism squad. The police action comes after the interrogation by Yard officers of two Britons held in Egypt as alleged would-be assassins for Libya.

Police are investigating the disappearance of Muhammad Shehbi, said to be a brother-in-law of Colonel Gaddafi from Britain last year. He had been given £30,000 bail after being charged in connection with drugs worth £4,000.

The three men are being held at Paddington Green police station, west London, under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and are expected to be released at the weekend.

Yesterday Mr Gareth Owen, a solicitor, said that one of the three men being held was Mr Bernard Haddican, who was his client. Mr Haddican, aged 44, lives at East Budleigh, Devon and runs an air leasing business at Exeter airport.

The other two men are understood to be Mr Sean Hully, who runs an aircraft spare parts business in Earls Colne, Essex and Mr William Childs, a freelance pilot.

# Steelmen's leader retires

# Thatcher's first challenger

By Our Labour Correspondent

Mr Bill Sims, who stepped down yesterday as leader of the main steel union, takes his leave of the union scene in the midst of a miners' strike that has many parallels with the 13-week steel strike he led in 1980.

That dispute was the first serious challenge to Mrs Margaret Thatcher's leadership, and while it was launched on the issue of pay it was also a battle about the future of the industry and the British Steel Corporation's closure plans.

The bitter strike turned Mr Sims into a national figure.

A quietly-spoken man, who can nevertheless be blunt in his criticisms of other trade unions and their leaders, Mr Sims is on the right wing of the labour movement. In recent times he has engaged left-wingers with his attacks on the miners' leaders and the TUC's attempts to galvanize industrial support for the miners.

He started his working life in his native Hartlepool as a butcher's boy but soon joined the local steel mill where he worked as a crane driver. He became a divisional officer of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation in 1963, rising to general secretary in 1975.

During his time in the general secretary's seat, he has seen his membership severely reduced as BSC shed labour in a desperate attempt to curb enormous losses at a time of world over-production of steel.

The industry, which employed 225,000 people in the mid-1970s, now has a workforce of just over 80,000. About 80,000 jobs have been lost since the 13-week strike after which the union was unable to mount any serious opposition to the corporation's retrenchment programme.

"Decent" and "honourable" are words used by trade union colleagues to describe Mr Sims, who while he is 65 tomorrow remains a physical fitness fanatic in a job notorious for its unhealthy life. Almost single-handed he won a ban on smoking at the annual TUC conference.

Last year he was in the front line of the campaign to save the five remaining integrated steelworks; first there were mutterings from Whitehall of the need for further cuts in steel capacity and then what he saw as an attempt by the miners to threaten his members' jobs.

He was scathing at the TUC's Brighton Congress about the gestures of solidarity by union leaders, which he regarded as hollow, and actively opposed attempts by the miners to halt steel production by a blockade of coal and iron ore deliveries to the plants.

He said yesterday on BBC television: "In this strike we have given positive support by reducing production, but what we are not going to do at any stage is surrender to industrial closedown."



Farewell from Bill Sims, the right-wing steelmen's leader, on his last day in his London office yesterday.

# Urgent need to resolve conflict on countryside

Urgent action is required to resolve the growing conflict between farmers and conservation groups, a leading conservationist said yesterday.

Harmony between the two sides is coming under intense pressure, partly because of government and EEC cuts, Mr Robin Grove-White, Director of the Council for the Protection of Rural England said.

Conservationists and animal welfare groups want a greater say in matters of agricultural policy, he told farmers and students at the Cirencester Agricultural Conference at the Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester.

"We are no longer content to leave agricultural policy to be determined in cabal by the Government, the National Farmers' Union and the Country Landowners' Association," he said. "We will be seeking a say in how the patterns of grant aid and price support are determined in both Whitehall and Brussels."

He added: "Any agricultural support which is not environmentally benign is likely to become a matter of contention. Continued public support for agriculture could depend increasingly on whether that expenditure will be environmentally acceptable."

Further conflict could arise, he said, if the EEC introduces measures, such as price cuts, to control excess production.

# 650 engineering jobs to go

The Trafalgar House group yesterday announced the closure of its Redpath engineering foundry at Middlesbrough by April with the loss of more than 200 jobs. It has also asked for 90 redundancies from among the 1,000 workers at Cleveland Bridge and Engineering in Darlington.

Babcock Power, the engineering firm is to axe 350 jobs at its Renfrew plant near Glasgow. The reason given was a lack of power station orders.

He added: "Any agricultural support which is not environmentally benign is likely to become a matter of contention. Continued public support for agriculture could depend increasingly on whether that expenditure will be environmentally acceptable."

Further conflict could arise, he said, if the EEC introduces measures, such as price cuts, to control excess production.

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# Shot nurse home

Miss Christine Mullins, aged 22, the English nurse who was shot and paralysed in Peru was flown back to Britain from Miami yesterday.

# Final reel

The last cinema in Guernsey, the Gaumont, will close after tonight's show. It is to be demolished to make way for bank offices.

# Powell alert over Dublin's £800m radar defence

By Anthony Bevins Political Correspondent

The development of a high-level radar system could strip the Irish Republic of its strategic influence over Britain and the United States, Mr Enoch Powell said last night.

Official Unionist MP said in a speech at Market Hill, Co Armagh, that the implications of the little-noticed development were revolutionary for Northern Ireland. It was the trump card which could mark a turning point in the province's fortunes.

Mr Powell said that so long as defence surveillance was limited by the horizon, the republic's position in the Atlantic was of outstanding strategic importance.

"Hence the elaborate microwave telecommunications system, unrelated to any possible domestic requirements, with which the republic is being provided at a cost of £800 million and which will be able to feed data into the so-called 'Backbone' network in Britain."

He added: "This importance of the territory of the Irish for strategic and intelligence purposes has endowed it since the 1960s with an ideal weapon for blackmailing the United States and, through the United States, Britain, into undermining the constitutional status of Ulster and preparing the way for its absorption into an all-Ireland confederation."

"It has been a ruthless exercise directed at acquiring and protecting strategic assets in the island of Ireland and it has been conducted with typical cynicism and unscrupulousness from beginning to end."

But Mr Powell said that the end of that exercise was in sight, if the advance of defence technology and 'over-the-horizon' radar undermined the republic's position.

"If Britain, including Northern Ireland, can do the job itself

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# Doctors warned of liver risk after five skin drug patients die

A warning has been issued to doctors after reports that five people have died and 77 others have suffered liver damage after taking a widely-prescribed drug for fungal skin infections, such as athlete's foot.

The Committee on Safety of Medicines, a government watchdog body, is now urging all doctors using ketoconazole to weigh the potential benefits against the risk of liver damage. They are also advised to monitor closely patients who are given the medicine.

In a leaflet to doctors, the committee says that 700,000 prescriptions for the drug, made by Janssen Pharmaceutical Ltd, under the trade name Nizoral, have been dispensed since it was introduced early in 1981.

By last November, 82 reports of liver damage, including five deaths, had been reported in

patients treated with oral preparations of the drug.

The committee believes, because adverse reaction to drugs are not always reported, that the actual number of patients affected could be higher.

The leaflet, signed by Professor Sir Abraham Goldberg, the committee's chairman, says that liver damage could occur at any time after treatment with ketoconazole has started.

In some cases, liver damage worsened after the patient had ceased to take the drug and was irreversible by the time it was recognized.

Many of the patients affected were given ketoconazole for skin, nail and vaginal infections for which alternative medicines are available, the leaflet says.

A spokesman for the

committee said the drug was not being withdrawn: "It is a valuable medicine for the treatment of certain types of condition where there is no alternative", he said.

A statement issued by Janssen Pharmaceutical said the company had already warned doctors of the need for care when prescribing the drug.

It said it would continue to investigate which patients were particularly at risk of liver damage, in conjunction with liver experts and the Department of Health and Social Security.

"The company is working, and will continue to work, very closely with the committee and the Department of Health to ensure that doctors have as much information relating to this problem as possible, as soon as possible".



Crowning glory: Eric Pedersen, aged seven, wearing the silver fruit bowl won by his parents' 12-month-old wire fox terrier, Louline Heartstrain, which was named Spillers' Dog World Pup of the Year 1984 (Photograph: John Voos).

## Tour firm slashes holiday prices

Global Holidays yesterday cut £1 million off its brochure prices in the battle for summer holiday bookings after a slump blamed largely on price increases.

Global, a subsidiary of Great Universal Stores said it is cutting the prices of about 50,000 holidays giving savings of up to £70 a person.

Holidaymakers who have already booked will also benefit from the lower prices, Mr Roger Corhill, the managing director, said.

"We shall always do what is necessary to ensure the price of our holidays remains highly competitive against all our rivals," he said.

More people than ever are planning to drive abroad this year with the AA reporting a 90 per cent increase in bookings for motoring holidays organized by its company, Agosy. Thomas Cook, the travel agency, said it has sold 30 per cent more cross-Channel ferry tickets for the summer.

Mr John McEwan, retail director of Thomas Cook, said that after a slow three months travel agents were now busy taking summer holiday bookings.

"People always want to enjoy their Christmas before thinking too seriously about their summer breaks," he said.

But some summer holiday package prices have risen by more than 20 per cent and the continuing fall in the value of the pound against the dollar, in which aviation costs are met, has led to most companies abandoning their no-surcharge guarantee.

## Children to get private operations on NHS

By Tony Samstag

More than 100 children are to have surgery for ear, nose or throat complaints in a private hospital at National Health Service expense, the Bath district authority said yesterday.

The operations, which begin tomorrow, are the latest in attempts by health authorities to cut waiting lists, now totalling 630,000, by "contracting out" large numbers of patients. "This is a short-term arrangement aimed at solving a particular problem", Mr Andrew Wall, the manager of the authority, said.

"Many of these children have been waiting many months for tonsils, adenoids or ear operations. They are subjected to repeated infections which make them miserable and their parents worry when they miss school".

About 160 children are on the waiting list for ENT operations at the Royal United Hospital, Bath. Most will be treated at Bath Clinic, at a cost only slightly higher than usual, Mr Wall said.

With money that would otherwise have been spent on recruiting, almost all health authorities have been spending about £35 million annually to treat about 25,000 patients privately, according to the Department of Health and Social Security, in accordance with government policy.

Mr John Petten, Under Secretary of State in the Department of Health and Social Security, called recently for "increased use of private sector facilities for the treatment of NHS patients wherever this is a cost-effective way of improving or extending the service they can provide".

The National Union of Public Employees yesterday said the trend was very disturbing. The Government was "starving the NHS of funds on the one hand and inviting it to farm patients out on the other".

## Firms give rewards to police informers

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Businessmen in Great Yarmouth are helping the police to fight crime by providing financial rewards for informants. During the past 18 months they have paid more than £1,000 for information which has solved 73 crimes.

The "crime stoppers" scheme faces its biggest challenge in trying to solve the murder of Peter Miller, who was discovered stabbed to death on December 9. A reward of £500, instead of the normal £100 to £200, is being offered for information.

Mr Miller, aged 24, was discovered at 10 Camden Place, Great Yarmouth, where he had been lodging with his brother. The presence of a French anti-mugging tear gas cylinder found nearby remains a mystery.

The campaign is based on one in Illinois, United States, which Det Chief Insp Michael Cole, head of CID at Great Yarmouth, studied.

Local businessmen were interested and began a cash fund, for which they remain responsible. Each week, the police highlight one or two crimes through the local press. There is not more than £1,000 in the bank from up to 50 donations from organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr Alex Millar-Brown, director of the Norwich and Norfolk Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the scheme reflected the belief of businessmen that they should help police in tackling crime.

The police do not handle the

## BBC slips out of ratings

By David Hewson

The BBC fared badly in the audience ratings in the run-up to Christmas, failing to get a top ten programme.

Figures from the independent ratings body, Barb, show that ITV and Channel Four won more than 58 per cent of the national audience for the week ending December 23.

The BBC's most popular programme, Saturday news and sport, had 13.4 million viewers, one million fewer than ITV's tenth attraction, an episode of *Emmerdale Farm*.

One reason for BBC's poor showing was the performance of Channel Four, which had 7.3 per cent of the audience. ITV was watched by 50.9 per cent of viewers, compared with BBC 1's 33.1 per cent.

Father on theft charges

Paul Anthony Lindup, aged 25, the father of a three-year-old girl who died on Tuesday after a suspected arsonist set fire to the family home and who was living away from his family at the time was remanded in custody until Monday by magistrates at Leigh, Lancashire, yesterday.

Lindup, of Chester Road, Tydesley, Greater Manchester, is charged with two burglaries, theft of cash and goods worth a total of £2,600, and dishonestly handling £6,000 worth of stolen dresses.

His daughter Kelly died in hospital after two firemen carried her from her blazing home, in Linton Road, Tydesley, after her mother and two brothers escaped.

## Youth library

Teenagers in Bradford, West Yorkshire, are to be the first in the country to get their own library. Based in the city's central library it will have mainly paperback books and magazines as well as records, board games and a micro computer.

Colin Frederick Campbell, aged 37, a travelling salesman of Beresford Avenue, Hanwell, West London was remanded in custody by Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, yesterday, charged with the murder of Deirdre Sainsbury.

Rape warning

Scottish police have warned old people to be wary about letting strangers into their homes after two women, aged 79 and 76, were raped in unconnected incidents in Airdrie and East Kilbride.

Steady drinking

The eight Scottish police forces reported yesterday that the number of positive breath tests on motorists between December 31 and January 3 was 123, unchanged from last year.

## Doctors' scrawl caused mother-to-be's dismissal

Mrs Wendy Iles, a mother-to-be, was dismissed as a secretary because no one could read her doctor's scrawl, an industrial tribunal was told in Bristol yesterday.

She thought her sickness certificate said she had hypertension and so did her employer

but all she had was morning sickness. She won her claim that she was unfairly dismissed by her employers, Advent Data, of Melksham, Wiltshire. Compensation will be decided after she has her baby.

Mr Richard Ault, Advent's company secretary, told the

tribunal how Mrs Iles, aged 27, who he knew was two to three months pregnant, came into work late for a week, then had a week off, and continued to have illness problems.

After nearly four weeks, Mrs Iles, of Melksham, went to her doctor at the company's re-

quest, and was sent back with a certificate saying she was not fit to work full time. Mr Ault said his company needed someone to be available full time.

Mr Maurice Woods, the tribunal chairman, said: "It is a pity doctors do not write proper English."

## Sky Channel exceeds network aims

Sky Channel, the satellite television station owned by News International, said yesterday that it had exceeded its network target by the end of 1984.

The channel had originally aimed to reach 2.7 million homes equipped with cable throughout Europe by the end of the year, but it now has a reach of more than 2.8 million on 227 systems in Britain, Finland, Switzerland, Norway, Holland, Austria, West Germany, Sweden, France and Denmark. More than 100,000 of the homes are on cable systems in Britain.

Mr Patrick Cox, the channel's managing director, predicted that Sky would be available in more than four million European homes by early Summer.

## Guidelines for companies on TV franchise

About 40 companies interested in starting new cable television systems have been sent details of franchise requirements by the new Cable Authority, which will award contracts.

The authority intends to advertise the first five franchise areas by the end of February.

The authority said that the companies were those believed to be already interested in obtaining franchises from the authority, although not necessarily immediately. Some were known to be interested in more than one area.

The chairman of the authority, Mr Richard Burton, said last year that the body's first and paramount priority was to move ahead with franchising as quickly as possible.

## Salesman held

Colin Frederick Campbell, aged 37, a travelling salesman of Beresford Avenue, Hanwell, West London was remanded in custody by Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, yesterday, charged with the murder of Deirdre Sainsbury.

## Gold for Down's woman

Cathy Hebdon, aged 23, of Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, yesterday became the first person to receive a Duke of Edinburgh gold award.

She completed her four-year programme of activities without any special help. It included

making a suit, learning to swim to the required level, 18 months' community service with handicapped people.

She received a gold badge from Mr Robert Heron, director of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme at Chelmsford Town Hall.

### Front-line report from Harrods

## Carnage at the china counter

By Richard Dowden

Few battles are more daunting to the war correspondent than the first day of Harrods sale. This year the *Times* was invited to gain first-hand experience serving behind the china counter.

The first assault on the pink temple of Brompton Road began at 0900 yesterday morning. An hour before, in the dull dawn, 6,000 staff poured into the building to their action stations.

The atmosphere was tense, staff joked nervously among themselves, straightening ties and removing jackets. Managers hurried about giving orders to new recruits and a distressed assistant reported a cash till out of order even before the action began.

The ramparts of china and battlements of glass on the second floor stood waiting for the first wave. It came seconds after the doors opened.

A regiment of Japanese women were beaten for speed

by only a handful of Englishmen. Others, weighed down with inhibition, followed at a snail's pace. The first charge was followed by a crowd which seethed and eddied through the five floors, everyone's eyes searching the mass for a reduced target.

There was a large mercenary element from America, lured by a dollar worth almost a pound and exhorted by an advertisement in *The New York Times* last Sunday to come to London and spend, spend, spend at Harrods sale. One paid £1,755.82 cash for several crates of china. He was from Dallas.

No one appeared to have been deterred by the IRA bomb just over a year ago.

At the counters it was all hands, reaching out and clutching.

Tempers frayed. Those with accounts tried to pull rank at the counters, tussles broke out as two pairs of hands simultaneously seized the same sou-

turen. I saw one woman's ecstatic face dissolve into agony as she found there were no saucers to match the dozen coffee cups she clasped.

Amid the constant clatter of cups and saucers being shored into wire baskets came the occasional crash of a shattering teapot or plate.

Behind the barricades the staff worked furiously, passing empty baskets and packing cases back and forth.

Ten casualties had been brought into Harrods clinic by 1600 hours; six had fainted in the crush.

But towards the end of the day the managing director, Mr Frank Drewitt, was proclaiming a great victory.

"On the basis of trading during the morning, we anticipate sales will be around £5.5 million for the day compared with £4.2 million for the first day last year", he said.

I was glad to escape into the peace of the London rush-hour.

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# New Ulster prison brings review of terrorists' special category status

From Our Correspondent, Belfast

Clearly, Armagh jail, where Ulster's 28 women prisoners are held, will go with the opening of the women's unit at Maghaberry. The other obvious candidate for closure is the five special-category compounds of now very dilapidated Nissen huts erected in 1971 next to the main prison at the Maze where there are eight H-blocks with 100 cells apiece. A further three H blocks are at Magilligan in Londonderry and Belfast's Victorian Crumlin Road prison is in good condition, with many years of life left.

Special category prisoners move around their compounds freely, do no compulsory work, wear their own clothes, and are under the daily supervision of their own paramilitary "commanding officers". The status was introduced by Lord Whitehead when he was Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in the early 1970s. He later publicly said that he much regretted it. Although warders have little contact with the inmates, staffing costs are still high, with many officers employed on perimeter security.

With so many open-ended life sentences it is difficult to predict how rapidly the special category numbers will fall, but no substantial early reduction is expected. There are questions, however, about how long will it be practical to run a second and extraordinary prison regime. The compound at the Maze for special category convicted members of the now defunct Official IRA now houses, very expensively, only six men.

One option is the Northern Ireland Secretary of State, Mr Douglas Hurd, will ponder within the next few months is to abolish special category status and try to integrate such inmates in a normal prison regime. His advisers are aware that this is likely to provoke a hostile reaction in the jails and among the prisoners' relatives and supporters outside.

If the authorities were to move the prisoners into existing cell blocks and allow them to retain their special category privileges, this could provoke a demand for identical privileges from present H-block inmates. Dozens of these took part in the "Dirty protests" and the hunger strikes which culminated in the deaths of 10 men in 1981, in pursuit of such special category privileges as free association, the right to wear their own clothes, and no compulsory prison work.

Whatever solution Mr Hurd adopts to solve the unusual circumstance of having more prison accommodation than he requires, he will be anxious not to provoke more such protests.

# Half-price rail fares for jobless rejected

British Rail denied yesterday that it was planning half-price travel for the Unemployed, in spite of the success of such a scheme in Northern Ireland.

Some 250,000 extra journeys have been stimulated on the much smaller Northern Ireland Railways during the past year. Mr Peter Thompson, commercial director disclosed this week. And the authorities believe there may be a highly significant extra benefit in encouraging the unemployed to go out and look for work.

But British Rail said it had looked at the scheme and decided not to adopt it. "We already have so many cheap offers for half-price travel - the various railcards and the Persil offer - and want to simplify the fare range rather than add new ones."

# Bomb case trio remanded

Three men on bomb plot charges were remanded in custody until next Friday by Liverpool's stipendiary magistrate yesterday.

Patrick Brazil, aged 34, of Belcham Avenue, and William Grimes, aged 43, of Chenyfield Road, both of Dublin, and Peter Jordan, aged 60, of St Peter's Rise, Hendley Walk, Bristol, are accused of maliciously conspiring to cause an explosion likely to endanger life or cause serious injury to property.

# Fine for stray dogs up to £130

The maximum fine for allowing pet dogs and other animals to stray on roads in the Irish Republic is to be increased later this year from 10p to £130 for a first offence under new Dublin government legislation.

The old amount was fixed - at two shillings - an Act of Parliament in 1851. In a drive against animals wandering on the roads, police will have greater powers to impound strays and order them to be sold or destroyed.

# Knife offence

Charles Richardson, aged 26, half-brother of Charlie Richardson, the former gangland leader, was fined £50 at Camberwell Magistrates' Court yesterday for having a knife as an offensive weapon and possessing small quantities of cannabis and cannabis resin. Richardson, of Balclava Road, Southwark, south London, admitted the charges.

# £2m estate for prison training

The Home Office has paid more than £2 million for the 323-acre Newbold Revel estate near Rugby, Warwickshire. It plans to open the estate as a prison officer's training college.

# Non-player Best

George Best, serving a sentence for drink driving at the Ford open prison near Arundel, West Sussex, is unlikely to play in the football team for West Sussex League. He failed to register by yesterday.

# Cider apple growers told of risks

By John Young  
Agriculture correspondent

West Country dairy farmers are being encouraged to grow cider apples to compensate for loss of income because of milk quota restrictions.

Cider sales are booming, despite a steady rise in value-added tax and excise duty, and are up from fewer than 50 million gallons in 1979 to nearly 70 million gallons last year. But about three-quarters of the cider produced in Britain is made from imported concentrated juice.

Demand for cider apples is about 450,000 tonnes, but British orchards, mainly in Hereford and Worcester and in Somerset, produce only about 80,000 tonnes specifically for cider making. Further 10 per cent of the demand is met by cooking and dessert apples, which still leaves a huge potential market for British growers.

But the latest *Farmers' Weekly* carries a warning about the financial risks. There is a waiting period of about seven years between planting and production, and yields tend to fluctuate considerably from year to year. Growers who sell on contract to the big cider makers, such as Bulmers, can expect to receive about £60 a tonne depending on grade and quality.

But Mr Terence Watts, Bulmers' production director, says that French growers get nearly £47 a tonne and, when there is a bumper crop as last year, spot market prices drop much lower than that.

# Macmillan keen on local income tax

How different would 1985's politics be if for the past 30 years councils had a local income tax to spend and Stansted were already London's second airport? In his final report on newly-declassified papers, David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent, asks what might have been if the Cabinet in 1954 had decided differently.

"A poor thing, but mine own" was the title given by Mr Harold Macmillan in 1954 to a lengthy plan submitted to his Cabinet colleagues which would deal, conclusively he said, with the difficulties of local government.

Mr Macmillan, who was Minister for Housing and Local Government, spoke of his "large and comprehensive plan, rather than a series of niggling proposals" to reform councils and their finance.

Covered with glory from his outstanding performance as a builder of council houses, Mr Macmillan turned his attention in 1954 to council finance broaching what he ironically called "dangerous fancy schemes" such as a local income tax. Twenty-eight years on, when Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Government again reviewed council finance, local income tax was still on the agenda.

Anticipating long years of argument over county and borough boundaries, Mr Macmillan said: "Nearly all the possibilities will provoke hostility in some quarter or another. The complexity of the subject and the number of departments affected makes it certain that the preparation of a practical scheme will be a lengthy process."

It is a moot point whether Mr Macmillan's desire for reform that would not disturb the existing "tiers", the counties above and the boroughs below, might not have saved what we know, after two royal commissions, and the present government's abolition scheme, to have been abortive later reform plans.

Mr Macmillan recommended "controls on extravagance" and reform of the way government grants were distributed to councils.

However, later in October 1954 Mr Macmillan left local government to become Minister of Defence. Sir Winston Churchill received Mr Macmillan's grand scheme politely but, the Cabinet minutes say, he promised to study them on condition that no legislation would be put forward during the lifetime of that Parliament.

The Cabinet papers also reveal how Stansted, now the subject of a controversy, nearly became London's second airport in the early 1950s.

Stansted was looked at several times but eventually rejected, not because of its green-field amenities but because civil aircraft movements from Stansted could conflict with military flight patterns

Concluded

# Argentine kidnap warning to explorer

By Michael Horsnell

David Hempleman-Adams, the explorer, was given a warning that the Argentine Navy might try to kidnap him during his solo expedition round Cape Horn by canoe, it was disclosed yesterday.

Mr Hempleman-Adams, aged 28, returned to Britain yesterday from South America. He said he was constantly escorted by the Chilean navy during his 180-mile voyage.

He said: "The Chileans seemed to believe I was a potential kidnap victim. The tension between Chile and Argentina down there over the Beagle Channel is incredible. We never realized it before we set off."

Argentine warships shadowed him during the four days it took to complete the expedition. But a large Chilean presence, including island garrisons, radar installations and torpedo boats, ensured there were no incidents.

Mr Hempleman-Adams, who celebrated the success of the expedition with a party in Santiago on Christmas Day, said his worst moment of the trip was when his 17ft canoe, which had been cut into three sections for the return flight home, was temporarily lost in customs at Heathrow.

Speaking at the Boat Show, at Earls Court, London, where he went on arrival, he added: "It was quite an easy trip round Cape Horn because the weather was so good. It was the best weather for 30 years, though I was still pretty seasick. In those conditions, anyone could do it."

Mr Hempleman-Adams, who walked alone last year to the magnetic North Pole, where he killed a bear in self-defence, now plans a trip to North Greenland in the spring. He will be taking part in a scientific expedition involving

# £4m fund to honour Marques dead

Seven months after a freak squall sank the British sailing ship *Marques*, a trust fund has been launched to honour the 19 crewmen who lost their lives.

The 117ft square-rigger, which appeared in the *Ouedin Line* and *Foldark* television series, went down last June as she was leading the *Bermuda* to Nova Scotia tall ships race.

Some of the crew's nine survivors were at Earls Court in London yesterday for the Boat Show, at which the *Marques* Memorial Trust was launched.

The trust, whose patron is Prince Michael of Kent, aims to raise £4 million to help the families of those who drowned, and also to build a replica of the 67-year-old ship.

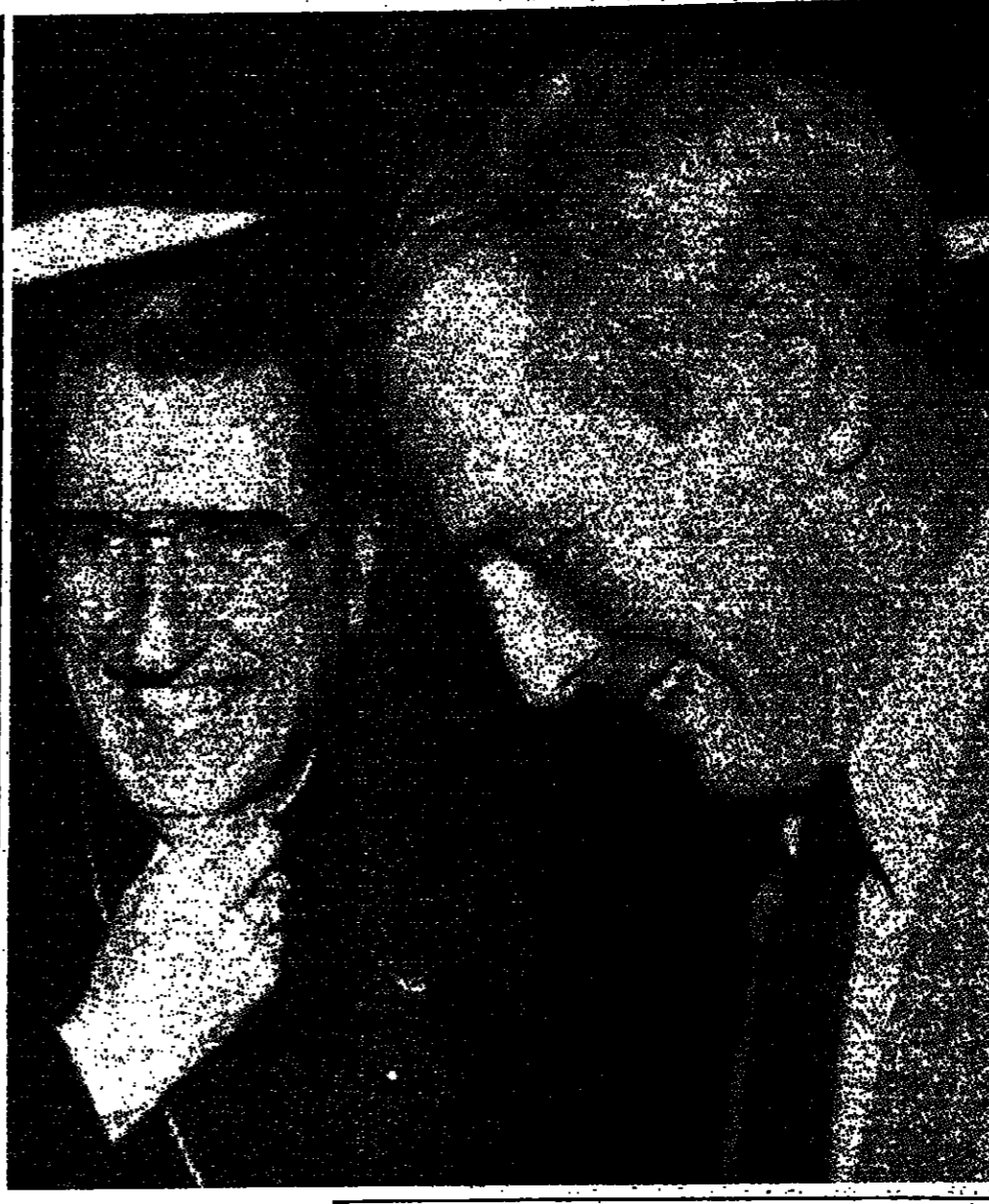
The three-mast, 200-ton vessel was built in 1917 in Spain. She sank last June after being struck by hurricane winds.

The fund, which will also promote the training of young mariners, was launched by General Sir Patrick Howard-Dobson, chairman of the Sail Training Association.

On behalf of Prince Michael, he presented a model of the *Marques* to Mrs Roseanna

# Aftermath of sea dramas

In memory: General Sir Patrick Howard-Dobson presenting the *Marques* model to Mrs Messer-Bennetts. With them are two survivors, Mr Freeman (second left) and Mr Sefton (Photograph: Murray Job).



Paul Newman and Archbishop John O'Connor of New York after the actor had given \$250,000 (£220,000) to the Catholic Relief Services to help drought victims in Ethiopia and other parts of Africa. The money came from Mr Newman's food processing company which made a net profit of nearly \$2 million last year, all of which went to charity. The actor said he hoped his gesture would rub off on other big concerns in the United States.

# Kennedy will stay overnight in Soweto with Tutu

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Senator Edward Kennedy arrives in South Africa tonight at the start of an eight-day visit which aides in the advance party say is aimed at discovering "what makes the Afrikaner tick."

The tour will be reminiscent of a 1966 trip by his brother, Robert, who was assassinated when he stood for President two years later.

Senator Kennedy is being joined by his daughter, Kara, and son, Teddy, who had a leg amputated because of cancer. Also with him will be his sister, Mrs Joan Kennedy Smith, and her son, Steven Smith. Robert Kennedy's eldest daughter, Mrs Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, and her younger brother, Chris, will make up the family party.

Aides deny the senator is seeking a confrontation with the Government or that the visit is simply to launch a campaign for the Presidency in 1988. "You don't gain political points by coming to Africa four years before an election."

But the emphasis will be to meet, on home ground, Pretoria's hardest black critics and to see at first hand the conditions under which the majority lives. Senator Kennedy, acknowledged leader of the Democratic Party's liberal wing, will spend his first night in Soweto, the huge township outside Johannesburg, and he is expected to sum up his reactions in a speech in Cape Town next Friday - the only day he will meet government ministers.

The senator has denounced President Reagan's policy of constructive engagement with Pretoria, which seeks racial reform through quiet diplomacy, as a "total failure and moral abdication" and one which has made America "a collaborator in repression."

He will be met tonight by Bishop Desmond Tutu, the Anglican Bishop-elect of Johannesburg and Nobel peace laureate who has incurred the wrath of the Government - and many white members of his

# Gandhi hits at arms for Pakistan

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

The new Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, fresh from his election triumph, has celebrated by giving an interview to Bulgarian television. In doing so he has slightly scooped himself, since he is due to appear on Indian television today to give an address to the nation.

In the first formal interview since his massive win, Mr Gandhi told his interviewer, Miss Daniela Kuneva, that he was not a bit surprised. "We always expected a very strong win," he said, "because we have been working specifically for these elections for the last two and a half years."

Mr Gandhi suggested that the elections had emphasized the fact that national unity was on "everybody's lips... from the north to the south, and from the east to the west. Maintaining unity was the one most important factor in everybody's mind."

He made clear his continuing hostility to the arms supply to Pakistan by the United States, and his concern about the arms build-up in the Indian Ocean.

He cited as evidence of Pakistan's involvement in the internal affairs of India the recent hijacking of an Indian Airlines aircraft to Lahore and Dubai. Mr Gandhi spoke of "equipment" which had been made available to the hijackers "from one of our neighbours" - a reference to the pistol which was reported to have been given to the hijackers at Lahore.

Mr Gandhi has meanwhile also made plain that he does not have any very concrete ideas about how to solve the Punjab crisis, as was claimed for him earlier. He has instead announced the setting up of a panel of experts.

● US VISIT: Mr Gandhi is likely to visit the United States in June, the US Embassy said in Delhi yesterday (AFP reports).

# Singapore party rejects offer of extra MP

From Stephen Taylor, Singapore

One of Singapore's opposition parties yesterday rejected the offer of an additional parliamentary seat with limited voting rights in the wake of last month's general election.

Mr Ben Jayaretnam, leader of the Workers' Party, said its executive had decided it could not accept what he called the "bribe" of MPs who did not have the power to represent the electorate.

A constitutional amendment approved before the election provided for non-constituency seats for the three opposition candidates receiving the most votes.

In the event two candidates, Mr Jayaretnam and Mr Chiam See Tong of the Singapore Democratic Party, won election outright while the ruling People's Action Party took the remaining 77 seats.

A Workers' Party candidate who won a 48.5 per cent vote was offered the third place.

# Peking to protect Taipei trade

Peking (Reuters) - China yesterday assured Taiwan that it would not harm the island's lucrative links with Hong Kong when British hands over the colony to Peking in 1997.

Western diplomats see the pledge as the first explicit statement of China's intentions towards Taipei's Hong Kong interests after last month's Sino-British pact on Hong Kong.

"After China's resumption of the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong in 1997, the relations existing between Hong Kong and Taiwan, including those in the shipping, civil aviation economic and cultural spheres and exchanges of personnel, will remain unchanged," the Chinese Foreign Ministry told Reuters.

Taipei has indicated recently that despite its violent opposition to the People's Republic, it might not want to sever all ties with Hong Kong after Peking's takeover.

Hong Kong is Taiwan's third biggest trading partner, providing the Nationalist Chinese with \$2 billion (about £1.75 billion) a year in business.

The agreement to preserve the capitalist system after 1997 allows a future Hong Kong administration wide powers: including the right to allow states not recognized by Peking to set up business institutions.

The diplomats say that Peking's statement will press Taipei to make a more moderate response to China's overtures for reunification: which Taiwan has rejected as tricky.

China has said it will allow Taiwan more generous terms than Hong Kong if it agrees to reunification, including its own government and armed forces.

● TAIPEI: Taiwan is developing its own high-performance fighter planes because it cannot

# US 'told outright lies' on Vietnam

New York (NVT) - The spy in the trial of General William Westmoreland's "lies" suit against CBS was shown a series of letters in which an intelligence analyst in South Vietnam wrote to his wife in 1968 that "outright lies" and "truly gargantuan falsehoods" were involved in estimates of enemy strength.

The letters, from Commander James Meacham of the US Navy, were introduced by Mr David Boies, the lawyer for CBS, as part of an effort to show that the network used reliable material in preparing its 1982 documentary, *The Uncounted Enemy: A Vietnam Deception*, which is the subject of the \$20 million (£17.5 million) suit.

As he read from the 10 letters - which Mr Meacham had consistently told CBS did not portray "a picture of intelligence" - Mr Boies asked Mr George Crile, the producer of the documentary, over and over again whether he had depended on them.

Each time Mr Crile said he had, and went on to explain what he regarded as their significance. He said that the letters, the portions of which were used in the documentary, demonstrated Mr Meacham's acknowledgment of the "network's" responsibility to properly inform the country as to the nature of the enemy we were fighting.

Mr Crile, who also told the jury of the many books, congressional reports, and other materials he relied upon while researching the programme in 1981, as well as of the intelligence officers of the "highest integrity" with whom he had spoken, "hostile witness" by Mr Dan Burt, the lawyer for General Westmoreland.

On Thursday, Mr Boies completed his cross-examination of the producer before Judge Pierre Leval in Federal District Court in Manhattan.

Mr Meacham, who is now military correspondent of *The Economist*, served in South Vietnam from mid-1967 to mid-1968, when he was 37 years old. He retired from the navy in 1973.

Virtually every day when he was in Vietnam, where General Westmoreland commanded American forces from January 1964 to June 1968, Mr Meacham wrote to his wife, Dorothy, in Charleston, South Carolina. Some of his letters contained stark comments on the progress of the war. In 1968, Mr Meacham gave them to Mr Samuel Adams, a former CIA analyst, who was writing a book on a dispute between the CIA and the military over enemy strength during the war.

In 1981 Mr Adams became a paid consultant to CBS for the documentary, and both he and Mr Crile are defendants in the trial.

In a March 20, 1968, letter containing a reference to Senator Robert Kennedy, then an aspirant for the Democratic nomination for president, Mr Meacham wrote:

"I never thought I would consider voting for Bobby, either, but one can have no small comprehension of the mismanagement of this goddam war unless he has seen the outright lies and the machinations of General Westmoreland's command."

"I'm not talking about confusion and inefficiency, which to a certain extent are products of all wars but about muddle-headed thinking, cover-up-ass orders, lies and outright foolishness on the very highest levels. The crime is that you couldn't tell anyone even if you wanted to - no one would believe it."

# Price of a Mexican's life is £8,400

From Bruno Lopez, San Juan Ixhuatpec

Life is cheap in Mexico. At least that is what some of the relatives of 460 poor Mexicans said, who died in the country's worst disaster, after receiving the first compensation payments from the Government's oil monopoly.

The monopoly, Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex) began paying damages on Wednesday to the victims of the November explosion at the liquefied gas plant in this shanty town on the northern outskirts of Mexico City.

"I cannot believe the life of my husband is worth only two million pesos (£8,400)," a woman said shortly before picking up her cheque.

Other victims - also seamed

# Pledge on Hong Kong links

The Cabinet said yesterday that Taiwan's air defence was the armed forces' top priority, and that the Air Force was working on building airfields for Taiwan's offshore islands.

Taiwan started a defence industry and modernization programme after the US agreed with China in 1982 to stop supplying advanced weapons to the Nationalist Chinese.

● HONG KONG: Mr Davis Aker-Jones had been named Chief Secretary of Hong Kong in succession to Sir Philip Haddon-Cave, who is retiring (David Bonavia writes).

● AKERS-JONES, aged 57, is present Secretary for City and New Territories, is a veteran official of the British administration and a fluent Cantonese speaker.

# New Caledonia will be offered independence as French associated state

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Proposals for the future of New Caledonia, involving independence for the troubled French overseas territory but with close ties with France and a special status for the predominantly European capital of Noumea, are expected to be announced by M Edgar Pisani, France's special envoy to New Caledonia, on Monday.

According to press reports, M Pisani's proposals involve the transportation of New Caledonia's relationship with France from that of a semi-autonomous overseas territory to that of a fully sovereign nation under a contract of "association", involving substantial French financial and military assistance for a lengthy, but limited, period of perhaps five or 10 years.

Such an "associated state" status was originally envisaged under article 88 of the 1958 French constitution for the newly independent African Francophone states, but has rarely been used.

M Pisani is reported to be about to propose to Noumea, where the majority of the 50,000 white inhabitants live, to be allowed to become a kind of self-governing "free town" with a large degree of autonomy from what is expected to be a Kanak-dominated Government

for the rest of the islands. The indigenous Kanaks form 43 per cent of the 145,000 population. The white *Caldoches* of predominantly French origin represent 37 per cent. The remaining 20 per cent is composed of immigrants from other French overseas territories in the South Pacific, Vietnam and Indonesia. Most of the Kanaks want total independence from France, while most of the whites want to remain part of the French republic.

In drawing up his proposals, M Pisani is said to have tried to reconcile three apparently conflicting priorities: the preservation of French interests in the South Pacific; satisfying what France accepts as the legitimate demands of the Kanak people for sovereignty; and providing security for the rights and interests of the white minority in the islands.

M Pisani is understood to be aware that his proposals will satisfy no one completely, but hopes that each side may eventually come round to see that compromise is essential. However, the opposition parties in France have already made it clear that they plan to exploit the difficult situation to the full.

After discussion with all interested parties, M Pisani will

present a suitably modified version of his proposals to President Mitterrand at the beginning of February, which will form the basis of a Bill setting out conditions for the promised referendum on self-determination for New Caledonia. The Bill is expected to be put before Parliament before the French cantonal elections in March.

A referendum is now expected in New Caledonia either in the summer or early autumn. M Pisani is said to have rejected the separatists' demand that only Kanaks should be able to vote, as well as the suggestion by Mr Lionel Jospin, head of the French Socialist Party, that there be two separate votes, one for the Kanaks and one for the whites.

According to an official Government report on the social unrest in New Caledonia, 107 barricades were erected by separatists and anti-separatists between November 13 and December 31, all but one of which have now been removed; 96 buildings and cars were set alight; 15 explosive devices set off; and 41 buildings ransacked. Agence France-Press reports that 16 people, including 12 separatists, were killed over the same period.



Moving out: Europeans in the northern part of New Caledonia loading their possessions into vans. They were preparing to move into Noumea after Kanak requests for their expulsion.

# Pentagon steps up use of lie detector

From Christopher Thomas Washington

The Pentagon is to widen its use of lie detector tests to determine the "trustworthiness, patriotism and integrity" of non-intelligence employees who might have access to secret information.

For the first time the Pentagon intends to deny certain positions to people solely on the basis of their failure to pass the polygraph examination. Previously no "adverse action" could be taken against anybody who failed a test unless subsequent investigations uncovered corroborating evidence.

President Reagan is a staunch advocate of polygraph tests throughout the federal bureaucracy. Congress last year forced him to back away from an attempt to force tens of thousands of employees to take the test in order to plug embarrassing information leaks.

Under the Reagan Administration the Pentagon has expanded the use of lie detector tests from about 13,000 in 1980 to 21,000 in 1983. All tests were conducted under regulations that have been in place since 1975, which allow polygraphs in criminal investigation, in screening prospective employees of the top-secret National Security Agency, and in seeking the source of specific news leaks.

The examinations are also widely used to screen CIA employees, civilian employees of the military, and government contractor employees.

Retired General Richard Stilwell, Deputy Under-Secretary of Defence for Policy, said 3,500 people would be affected this year under a test programme. If Congress agreed to its extension it would cover 10,000 people a year, to help keep spies from infiltrating sensitive military programmes.

The accuracy of the polygraph is widely questioned. Representative Jack Brooks, Democrat of Texas, chairman of the House government operations committee, said there was no scientifically acceptable evidence that polygraphs were effective except in narrowly defined investigations.

There was good reason to believe that "they may result in high error rates causing harm to many innocent people, the Government and national security."

This is a serious concern for Dr Soares, who will be a presidential candidate in 1985. Recent polls show that any candidate backed by President Eanes could easily defeat Dr Soares.

A new political party tacitly backed by President Eanes will appear in the middle of the month, its goal is to take over the central position now occupied by the Social Democratic coalition headed by the Prime Minister Dr Mario Soares.

President Eanes criticized the political parties and the government severely, saying that democracy was at risk when people do not feel they are involved "in tasks of national interest, when there is an inability to mobilize the human and natural resources in a socially just and economically viable way."

He criticized the parties and the government for reserving to themselves all powers of decision and said that in a democracy everyone should be allowed to take part in decisions that affect them. He called for a decentralization of political power.

The President said that "Changes in political practice must be made," adding that "to change it is necessary to govern, which means demanding work, rewarding seriousness and attracting competence."



President Eanes: 'Acting as Opposition leader'.

# Priest sees no future in astrology

From Peter Nichols Rome

Fervent imbibers of their horoscopes for the new year have received a timely warning from Father Gian Concetti, a Franciscan theologian, who places astrology firmly out of bounds for Christians.

For him, it is both "grave" and "dangerous" that many Christians allow themselves to be influenced by astrology and horoscopes. "The art of divination which claims to read the future and to reveal the secrets of the human personality, whatever the means adopted, cannot be reconciled with the Gospels."

"In particular, horoscopes, if they go beyond the mere offering of honest advice and wise warnings, when they claim to foresee the future, enter the field of superstition, and Christians can neither accept nor follow them."

Father Concetti, who writes frequently on theological questions for the Vatican's semi-official newspaper *L'Osservatore Romano* recommends a quite different practice by recalling the teaching of Pope John XXIII who encouraged Christians to study the signs of the times and interpret them in the light of the Gospels.

Whether what Father Concetti says needs saying is debatable but his views certainly have a strong historical basis. Astrology was much followed in the ancient world but Christian teaching was against it.

The condemnations of St Augustine resulted in its suppression throughout the Empire. It returned in the 13th century through the influence of Arabic and Jewish scholars who had studied astrology in the East.

Its importance reached a peak in the 16th century when Catholics and Protestants followed the practice of studying the effect of the stars on human fortunes. The rational and official Christian mind opposed it. Cassius eloquently upbraided Brutus on the subject and 18th century scepticism dealt it such severe blows as Swift's satirical pamphlet *Prediction for the Year 1706*.

Astrologers, with their horoscopes, have returned in popular fashion, and Vatican denunciations have appeared with some regularity, to the extent that similar future warnings can reliably be predicted without the help of stars, or even zodiacal signs.

# Eanes criticism provokes angry challenge from coalition parties

From Martha De La Cal Lisbon

Angered by his critical New Year speech to the nation, Portugal's Socialist/Social Democrat coalition has challenged President Ramalho Eanes to dismiss the government, if he believes it "does not ensure the regular functioning of the country's democratic institutions."

President Eanes criticized the political parties and the government severely, saying that democracy was at risk when people do not feel they are involved "in tasks of national interest, when there is an inability to mobilize the human and natural resources in a socially just and economically viable way."

He criticized the parties and the government for reserving to themselves all powers of decision and said that in a democracy everyone should be allowed to take part in decisions that affect them. He called for a decentralization of political power.

The President said that "Changes in political practice must be made," adding that "to change it is necessary to govern, which means demanding work, rewarding seriousness and attracting competence."

# Train daubed

Supporters of the West German Red Army Faction halted the Amsterdam-Munich express and painted slogans supporting terrorists on prison hunger strike on the side.

# Gulf deaths

New York (Reuters) - The UN said 34 seamen were died in Gulf war incidents in seven months. Eight more had been listed as missing, 13 wounded, and four detailed as unspecified casualties.

# Toronto hospital inquiry Eight babies were murdered

From John Best, Ottawa

At least eight babies were murdered with overdoses of digoxin, a powerful heart drug, at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, and 15 others may also have been murdered, a Royal Commission of Inquiry has concluded. It conducted an exhaustive investigation lasting a year and a half into 36 mysterious deaths in the institution's cardiac ward in 1980 and 1981.

The Commissioner, Mr Justice Samuel Grange, of the Ontario Supreme Court, found that six of the deaths resulted from natural causes and he listed the remaining seven as "undesignated as to cause."

The 224-page report, released in Toronto on Thursday, left open the question of who might have carried out the murders, and did little to relieve the anguish of parents.

Many of the parents were left angry, disappointed and confused by the failure of the judicial system to pinpoint responsibility, and have insisted that the investigation continue even though Toronto police evidently have no suspects in sight.

The mother of one of the babies whom Mr Justice Grange found had been murdered said, with tears streaming from her eyes: "Somebody should have to pay for the babies' deaths. Someone should be suffering like we are now."

But all indications yesterday were that the killer, whoever he or she is, may well go free.

Mr Justice Grange was prohibited by an earlier ruling

of the Ontario Court of Appeal from naming anyone he might believe to be guilty. However, he said in his report that he found no clear evidence against any party.

The judge exonerated a nurse at the Hospital, Miss Susan Nelles, whom the police at one point charged with four murders, but who was cleared for lack of evidence after a preliminary hearing in 1982.

"Knowing what I now do, I would not recommend the arrest or the prosecution of Susan Nelles for the deaths of any of the babies," he said.

Mr Justice Grange recommended that Miss Nelles be compensated for her legal bills - estimated to total around \$Can200,000 (£135,000) - on condition that she drop her \$Can854,000 civil action against the Toronto police for malicious prosecution. The nurse's lawyer indicated later that he was not attracted to the proposed deal.

Miss Nelles, who is honeymooning after her marriage on December 29, returned to work at the hospital in June 1983 after a paid two-year leave of absence.

On Thursday, Mrs Phyllis Trayner, the leader of the overnight nursing team on duty when most of the deaths occurred resigned from the hospital staff.

In his report Mr Justice Grange appeared to reject the theory of euthanasia, or mercy killing, which has periodically been advanced as an explanation.

Dealing with one case he said: "Assuming there was no error, the administration of digoxin could be for the purpose of causing harm to the baby."



Miss Susan Nelles: Exonerated by judge.

# Triumphant return by 'vigilante'

New York (Reuters) - New York's self-confessed "subway vigilante", Bernhard Hugo Goetz, returned to the city yesterday to face four charges of attempted murder amid the kind of security normally reserved for visiting heads of state.

Hundreds of police on foot and horseback restrained crowds when Mr Goetz, aged 37, who has admitted shooting four teenagers on a subway train on December 22, was brought to police headquarters in lower Manhattan.

The crowds chanted "Let him go, let him go" as Mr Goetz, wearing a brown leather jacket, white shirt, blue jeans and black canvas shoes, was led into the building. Police marksmen were stationed on rooftops nearby.

After being booked on the attempted murder charges, and another count of illegally possessing a pistol, Mr Goetz was taken to Manhattan's criminal court for a preliminary hearing, at which he was not required to make a plea.

Judge Leslie Snyder set bail at \$50,000 cash (£44,000), which Mr Goetz was unable to pay. He was sent to Rikers Island Correction Centre, where he is being held for his own protection.

Mr Goetz's case will first be considered by a grand jury, which will decide whether he should be sent for trial to the New York Supreme Court.

Mr Goetz is the son of a wealthy immigrant who fled Nazi Germany and made his fortune in the dairy and property businesses. The younger Goetz was educated at an exclusive boarding school in Switzerland.

In a statement, he said the shooting of the four black youths, who demanded \$5 from him, was monstrous but he pleaded for sympathy because of his fear, frustration and rage.

# Attempts to end church schism run into trouble

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Efforts to end the 930-year-old schism between the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church were seriously set back when Bishop Meliton, the Metropolitan of Chalcedon acclaimed as the architect of the theological dialogue between the two churches, suffered a debilitating stroke from which he seems to be making too slow a recovery in a New York clinic.

Already the dialogue itself, which had an auspicious start under his guidance in Patmos and Rhodes more than four years ago, appears to be running into difficulties. The original plan had been to discuss issues on which the two churches disagree - least, such as the sacraments. The step by step more intractable differences such as the "Filioque" clause and papal primacy and infallibility, could be broached.

Now the two sides are discovering substantial difficulties in agreeing even on such matters as the three sacraments of the Christian initiation: baptism, confirmation and the eucharist - on which consensus had been taken for granted.

In the Orthodox Church the three sacraments are given after birth, as in early Christian practice. The Roman Catholics prefer to have a period of preparation and catechism before confirmation.

While these had been treated as differences of pastoral practice, some of the more conservative Orthodox churches, especially the Church of Greece, made it clear that they regarded the Catholic practice as a doctrinal deviation. This position now raises the question of whether the Orthodox still recognize as valid sacraments administered by the Roman Catholic Church.

It was mainly these objections that prevented the third meeting of the Joint International Commission for the Dialogue, held in Crete from May until June 1984, from adopting a common document on "faith, the sacraments and the unity of the Church."

A compromise document which refers the argument to a colloquium of experts has now been circulated and will be submitted for approval at the fourth meeting of the joint commission which is scheduled to be held in Bari, Italy, in mid-1986.

# Abducted envoy was about to leave Beirut

BEIRUT (Reuters) - Police and militiamen searched here yesterday for a senior Swiss diplomat kidnapped shortly before he was due to leave Lebanon.

Another Swiss envoy, Mr Jean Savod, arrived here on Thursday to find that the man he was to replace as charge d'affaires, Mr Eric Wehrli, had been abducted.

Mr Savod said the embassy had no news of Mr Wehrli who was dragged from his car by gunmen as he drove home in mainly Muslim west Beirut on Thursday.

In Bern the Swiss Government said the abduction followed a threat to the life of the Ambassador in Lebanon last year.

# Bhopal: Water blamed

Delhi, (Reuters) - Water entering an underground storage tank probably caused the Bhopal gas disaster in which 2,500 people died, the Indian Government's scientific adviser was reported as saying yesterday.

The Press Trust of India said that Dr S. Varadarajan told a meeting of the Indian Science Congress in Lucknow that the water set off a violent runaway reaction in the methyl isocyanate stored in the tank at a pesticides factory owned by the American Union Carbide company.

"Just half a kilogramme of water entered the underground methyl isocyanate tank ... triggering a runaway reaction that probably pulled the entire tank from the ground causing cracks in its concrete shield," he was quoted as saying.

Clouds of poison gas escaped from the tank on December 3 and spread over the central Indian city of Bhopal in the world's worst industrial accident.



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Tony Lashaway, Wine Scout by Appointment, sending back the results of much prodding around the 'unknown' bits of Burgundy and Bordeaux.

James Ainsworth, Punch's new wine writer, looking on the lighter side, but teaching us a lot too, and

Roz Cooper, editing the world's biggest circulation wine magazine - the Club's 'Wine Times'.

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Mr Wehrli: First Swiss target in Lebanon.



# Police officer in tears as he tells of top-level backing for priest's kidnap

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Breaking into tears, a Polish secret police officer declared yesterday that he believed he would not be arrested for the killing of the Solidarity Priest, Father Jerzy Popieluszko, because at least two police generals were sympathetic to the kidnap.

Waldemar Chmielewski, a police lieutenant until his arrest, told a Torun courtroom that after the kidnap and killing of the priest he reported to the office of his superior captain, Gregorz Piotrowski, acknowledged leader of the kidnap team.

Piotrowski told him that his office in the Interior Ministry might be bugged, and took Chmielewski and the third defendant, the former Lieutenant Leszek Pekala, to a cafe where he assured them of their immunity.

They would not be interrogated, said the captain, and there would be no fingerprint checks because there are "decent and proper people in the investigating commission".

Several names were mentioned, Chmielewski said in cross examination, but he could remember only two, both heads of department - General Zenon Platek, head of the Church Monitoring Department and General Zbigniew Jablonski.

General Platek has been suspended from duty, but no charges have been lodged against him. Both generals are on the list of 22 witnesses, but the court may well invoke the Official Secrets Act and question them in camera.

Chmielewski believed Piotrowski, he said partly because his knowledge of the investigation into the killing showed that he had inside knowledge.

In any case the lieutenant "trusted Piotrowski as my own father" though later he felt "both used and deceived".

Chmielewski broke down frequently, the combination of his stammer, his nervous tic and his tears making the testimony unintelligible. His wife, eight months pregnant, sat in the courtroom quietly sobbing as she heard the officer state: "I have lost my family... I had my life. I had to consider that the priest also had a family, people who were suffering. That could not be hidden."

None the less, for the first two days after his arrest, Chmielewski had refused during interrogation to acknowledge his role in the plot, or even to admit that the priest was dead. He said: "I was afraid that Piotrowski or someone higher up would take some action against me."

After being taken to the scene of the crime and hearing on the car radio that Piotrowski had also been arrested, he decided to confess. "It was such a terrible event. No reasonable man could cover it up, that would be beyond human capability."

Chmielewski, whose father worked for the Interior Ministry and who also served for a time in the Zomo riot squads, seemed to resent his case without great subtlety.

He claims that the beating of the priest was so repulsive that he hid behind the getaway car and tried to change the number plates rather than help Piotrowski or witness the brutality. The result was that the car had different plates at back and front for much of its journey to Wloclawek reservoir, where

Father Popieluszko was dumped, apparently already dead.

Two important contradictions have emerged in the testimonies of the two lieutenants. Pekala, who began testifying on December 27, claimed that his role was essentially passive.

But Chmielewski cited several cases of Pekala's giving the initiative, in attaching stones to the legs of the priest, urging that the rope be tied tight, and pressing to put sticking plaster over the priest's mouth.

His testimony also contradicts the autopsy findings that the priest suffocated to death. "I can't imagine that anyone could have survived so many blows to the head", he said - during the journey to the reservoir.

But Chmielewski, under the pressure of questioning and befuddled by emotion and tension, then went back on his own evidence by declaring that the priest's leg appeared to move when they were tying sacks of stones to him.

If that were true, the priest may still have been alive when he was taken to the water, burdening the two lieutenants with direct participation in murder.

Chmielewski will continue to testify on Monday, and given that he is fit enough to complete his statement - the judge yesterday banned photographers because their camera flashes were frightening the lieutenant - he will be succeeded by Captain Piotrowski, the crucial defendant.



Former Lieutenant Waldemar Chmielewski under pressure as he gives evidence in the Torun courtroom yesterday.

# Argentina hardens Falklands stance

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

Argentina's accusation that Britain is aggravating tension in the South Atlantic over the Falkland Islands appears to be in line with a tougher stance adopted by the Argentineans in the wake of Mrs Thatcher's Christmas broadcast to the Falklands.

Mrs Thatcher's promise to the islanders that their wishes would always come before Argentina's claim to sovereignty took Argentine diplomats by surprise and prompted the Foreign Minister, Sergio Marchesi Caputo, to issue a harshly worded reply accusing her of arrogance.

The Foreign Ministry followed that up on Thursday with a communique marking the 152nd anniversary of Britain's seizure of the islands, charging that "recent public developments show that the British Government is responsible for events which are not productive of the necessary negotiations".

The Argentinean document also expressed concern over what it said was Britain's "insistence and aggravation of tension in the South Atlantic" and said Argentina "hopes that the United Kingdom will eventually act in accordance with the United Nations Charter... so that negotiations to resolve the (Falklands) dispute can begin as soon as possible".

Also indicative of a harsher Argentinean line on the Falklands was the reaction to news of a six-month old oil exploration contract signed between the Falkland Islands Government and the tiny Firstland Oil and Gas Company.

Although that contract was made public in Britain last July, it was only leaked to the Argentinean press for the first time this week.

While Argentina's nationalistic newspapers were charging that Britain was "imposing her will on the Malvinas", Sergio Caputo stated that Argentina would not recognize any oil concessions made by Britain.

# Test-tube triplets and mother doing well

Paris - Test-tube triplets believed to be the first in Europe, were born in Paris yesterday after a 35-week pregnancy (Dinah Geddes writes).

The two girls and a boy, born from three separate eggs fertilized *in vitro* by the sperm of their father and then implanted in the womb of their mother, were all reported to be doing well last night.

The mother, who wishes to remain anonymous, was also reported to be well after undergoing a caesarean operation.

# Dissidents held

Frankfurt (AFP) - Five Czechoslovak dissidents who signed the Charter 77 human rights manifesto are being detained in Prague, the Frankfurt-based Human Rights Association said. Two others detained with them were freed yesterday.

# Goats reprieved

Washington (Reuter) - The US Defence Secretary, Mr Caspar Weinberger, has delayed the shooting of 1,400 goats said to be endangering wildlife and plans on an island off California that the Navy uses for target practice to give time to relocate the animals.

# Fare exchange

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (AP) - A West German tourist among 150 angry passengers stranded for two days at Kilimanjaro Airport north-west of here ripped up his ticket and took a \$100 taxi ride to Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, 150 miles north.

# Lambsdorff job

The Former West German Economics Minister, Otto Graf Lambsdorff, under indictment for accepting bribes, was appointed to the London-based German-British Foundation for the Study of Industrial Society yesterday.

# Exodus slows

New York (Reuter) - The National Conference on Soviet Jewry and the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry said that only 896 Jews had left the Soviet Union in 1984, the lowest total since 1970.

# Santiago raids

Santiago (AP) - Police killed a gunman and arrested five people in separate raids on a Socialist Party research centre and a private house where arms including a rocket launcher were found.

# Refugee toll

Geneva, (AFP) - Thirty thousand people left Vietnam legally in 1984, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said here, adding that almost as many may have left illegally by sea.

# Plea on rebels

Tegucigalpa (Reuter) - The Honduran Foreign Minister, Sergio Eduardo Paz Barmica, has called for the expulsion of US-backed, right-wing Nicaraguan rebels from Honduras.

# Train daubed

Amsterdam (AFP) - Supporters of the West German Red Army Faction halted the Amsterdam-Munich express and painted slogans supporting terrorists on prison hunger strike on the side.

# Killer executed

Angola, Louisiana (Reuter) - The former evangelist, David Dene Martin, aged 32, who shot dead his wife's lover and three others, was executed in the electric chair here.

# Peak conquered

Buenos Aires (AFP) - A Canadian mountaineer aged 27, Sharon Wood, and Charles Buhler, a 30-year-old American, have climbed 22,964ft Aconcagua mountain by its most difficult route, the south face. They said at Mendoza, on the Argentine-Chile border, that they encountered severe blizzards.

# Kidnap record

Bogota (AFP) - A record number of 215 people were kidnapped in Colombia during 1984, according to official statistics. Of this total, 132 were abducted by left-wing guerrillas and the rest by common criminals.

# Scrolls burnt

Jerusalem (AP) - Police have arrested a former Jewish seminary student, Abraham Mizrahi, in connection with a synagogue fire that destroyed 15 Torah scrolls, some of them priceless.

# Thatcher date

Mrs Thatcher will meet the West German Chancellor, Dr Helmut Kohl, in Bonn on January 18.

# Pravda plea for realism at Geneva

Moscow (AFP) - The Soviet press, only three days before the Shuzh-Gromyko talks in Geneva, yesterday emphasized the Kremlin's desire for an accord on disarmament and normalization of relations with the United States.

Pravda, in its editorial, said the result of the Geneva talks, opening on Monday, "depended in a large measure on peaceful promises made by the American Administration during the recent presidential election campaign."

"Many statements have been made in Washington on the US Government's determination to start negotiations, some even mentioning flexibility," Pravda hoped that "these words will be backed up by concrete acts".

The newspaper said: "People desiring peace have the right to expect that the American side will adopt at the talks a constructive and realistic standpoint, and that it will join with the Soviet Union in a search for effective accords."

The talks must be "serious and sincere, and agreements must be based on the principle of equality and equal security". The Soviet Union "realizes the importance of normalizing Soviet-American relations".

Sovetskaya Rossiya recalled, as did Tass on Thursday, that "the Soviet Union is ready to adopt the most radical solutions which would lead to an end of intensive war preparations".

The "prevention of the arms race in space plays a key role" because "it would not only be dangerous in itself, but would fuel the arms race in all domains".

# Defection to US Russian physicist granted asylum

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

A senior Soviet nuclear physicist who defected to the United States on Christmas Eve has been granted asylum, US officials said yesterday.

Mr Artem Kulikov, aged 51, met Soviet Embassy officials at the State Department on Thursday. The meeting was reportedly to assure the Russians that he was not being held against his will.

Mr Kulikov was on an exchange research programme under the auspices of a US-Soviet Atomic Energy agreement, the department said.

He had been in the US for about three months and is believed to be the first high-energy physicist from the Soviet Union to defect there.

Mr Kulikov and three other Soviet physicists were taking part in an exchange programme at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, which has a large atom smasher. The US Immigration and Naturalization Service in Chicago said that Mr Kulikov defected just before he was to board a plane at O'Hare international airport to return to the Soviet Union.

Research at the Fermi laboratory is open to scientists all over the world. No classified research is conducted there. Foreign scientists who are assigned to the facility live on a campus near the laboratory, which is 35 miles west of Chicago.

Mr Kulikov is reported to be a senior scientist and chief engineer at the Leningrad Institute of Nuclear Physics. He has been in the United States on several previous exchange programmes.

Mr Joseph Lach, senior scientist at Fermi was quoted as saying that Mr Kulikov's defection surprised everybody.

He suggested that the defection was for personal rather than political reasons. The Chicago Tribune quoted a scientist at the laboratory as saying that Mr Kulikov had been depressed for personal reasons recently.

Soviet scientists have been taking part in the Fermi laboratory programmes since 1972.

# £6m aid promise for Ethiopia

The Band Aid charity record organizer, Bob Geldof, flies to Ethiopia today to promise almost £6 million in aid to famine victims (the Press Association reports).

The rock singer will meet officials of the Ethiopian Government and relief agencies to find out how the money can be most effectively spent.

The money has been raised through sales of the Band Aid record "Do they know it's Christmas?" and through its associated promotions.

Mr Geldof hopes to be in Ethiopia in time for local celebrations of Christmas, which begin on Monday. He plans to stay for up to 10 days.

A spokesman for his Phonogram Record Company said: "He will be trying to find out where, and on what, the money from the Band Aid trust can be best spent."

"He wants to make sure that the food or whatever isn't left piling up in the dock at Addis. He admits that as a pop singer he needs all the help he can get in allocating the funds."

Mr Geldof said later: "The politics of the thing don't concern me. I'll shake hands with the devil on the left and the right as long as it's going to ensure that this money ends up in the mouths of the people who need it."

He said he had been given a lot of "moral power", and had received offers of help and information from many sources.

The target when the project first started, he said, was to raise £70,000. So far there was £3.2 million raised from Britain, £2.4 million from America and £500,000 from Germany.

# UN help sought over fate of ANC refugees

From Alfred Sayila, Lusaka

The African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa has appealed to the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations to intercede on its behalf over the fate of its cadres in Swaziland who are believed to have disappeared from a police station where they had been detained since last month.

Mr Alfred Nzo, the ANC Secretary-General, fears the cadres have been handed over to South Africa after threats by Mr Major Simelane, the Swaziland Police Commissioner.

Mr Nzo confirmed that more than 20 cadres had disappeared from Mbabane police station. Others disappeared last year from Bhunya police station and the ANC learned later that they had been handed over to South Africa.

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# Congress ruling on seat angers Republicans

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

The Democratic-controlled House of Representatives has agreed to seat an Idaho Democrat whose November election victory was being contested but has postponed a decision in a challenged congressional race in Indiana.

The House voted 407 to 8 to administer the oath of office to Richard Stallings of Idaho, who beat incumbent Republican George Hansen in November by about 170 votes. But in a move one Republican called a "raw exercise of brutal political power", the House voted by 238 to 177 against swearing in either of the contenders for an Indiana congressional district. The seat

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# Unita promises to release Britons

By Richard Dowden

Mr Tito Chingunji, the representative in Europe of the Angolan rebel movement Unita, yesterday gave assurances to the Foreign Office that the three Britons kidnapped by Unita at Cafunfo a week ago would be safeguarded and released without condition.

In a 90-minute meeting with Mr Ewan Ferguson, the senior official on Angola, Mr Chingunji said that the three would be marched south but released as soon as they reach a destination from which they can be freed. He set no conditions for their release.

British mine technicians seized by Unita last year were released only when a Foreign Office official agreed to visit Dr Jonas Savimbi, the Unita leader, at his bush headquarters at Jamba in southern Angola.

Yesterday's meeting was described as cordial, but a Foreign Office spokesman said that strong representations were made to Mr Chingunji about the taking of Britons by Unita in Angola.

There was still no news yesterday of Mr James Taggart, a Scotsman from the diamond mine at Cafunfo still missing after the attack. The three Britons held by Unita are Mr Glen Dixon, from Leicester-shire, Mr John McMichael and Mr Paul Huggins.

# Fears grow that ideology may lead to economic slump

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

On the first working day of 1985 the value of the South African rand dropped, to nobody's surprise, to below 50 American cents (about 40 pence), a record low. A year ago it was worth 80 cents.

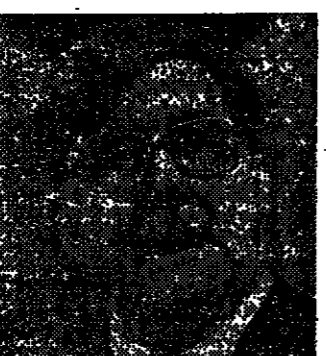
The explanation offered by the state-controlled South African Broadcasting Corporation was the continuing strength of the dollar and the depressed price of gold - now hovering close to \$300 an ounce - which accounts for 40 per cent of the country's exports.

But increasingly in all sectors of the economy the Government is accused of allowing its ideology to overshadow economic logic, and South Africa is seen as reaping the whirlwind of political mismanagement.

Not that this is particularly noticeable on the faces of white South Africans, who still form one of the world's most affluent societies. A black domestic servant and a "garden boy" remain permanent features of many homes, although there is a tendency to employ help on a daily basis, and some "madams" have even learned to cook and iron themselves.

In this the main holiday season, however, few coastal hotels have put up No Vacancy signs because thousands of people inland, warily budgeting for the months ahead, have stayed at home. The pre-Christmas shopping rush was as frantic as ever, but the big stores said the expensive items "took a knock, and we had to sell more smaller items to more people to keep our figures up".

The rand has also slumped against the currencies of South



Mr Horwood: Predicted return to prosperity

Africa's other main trading partners, including even the Italian lira. A basic reason, it is argued, is a lack of confidence in the Government's ability to achieve economic growth without inflation and all that goes with it.

South Africa ended 1984 with inflation running at 13.3 per cent and predictions that it will rise to 15 per cent within the next four months. Unemployment is unofficially estimated at about three million (including the vast numbers out of work in black "homelands"), or about 20 per cent of the labour force. Corporate profits and dividends have plummeted.

Despite this, Government spending has soared from 22 per cent to 29 per cent of gross domestic product in three years. There seems little prospect that the Government will change its ways. It is ideologically committed to the black "homelands" policy which, according to the opposition Progressive Federal Party, costs the country two billion rands a year in subsidies. It spends one

billion rands a year in hanging on to Namibia, the PFF says.

Although considerable strides have been made towards reform of racial laws, there appears to be no prospect of the more expensive pillars of apartheid being dismantled, such as the policy of subsidies for businesses that move from established areas to the "homelands".

Both opposition politicians and businessmen are keenly awaiting the March budget, which they hope will indicate how much the new Constitution, with its three separate Parliaments for whites, coloureds and Indians and a vastly enlarged bureaucracy, is going to cost.

Until the middle of last year the authorities behaved as if the worst of the recession was over. Mr Owen Horwood, the outgoing Finance Minister, confidently predicted a return to some measure of prosperity. In common with its neighbours, South Africa's economic woes had been compounded by crippling drought which forced it to import maize, the staple food of most blacks, instead of having a substantial surplus for export.

By August it was clear that these predictions were premature. Increased earnings from non-gold exports failed to materialize owing to lacklustre commodity prices, imports continued to flood into the country and government spending continued unchecked. The Reserve Bank weighed in with a tough austerity package which pushed the prime overdraft rate to 25 per cent, the hire purchase maximum to 32 per cent and mortgages to 18 per cent.

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THE ARTS

It is 20 years since Nureyev last choreographed Swan Lake. His new production at the Paris Opéra has, among other things, established a new star, Sylvie Guillem. John Percival reports

A spirited version of a familiar classic

Swan Lake Paris Opéra

Rudolf Nureyev's new production of Swan Lake for the Ballet de l'Opéra in Paris is only his second time in the role of the prince, although the first, for the Vienna State Opera in 1964, was so successful that it has held its place in the repertoire there ever since.



Sylvie Guillem, an Etolite at 19, and Prince Siegfried (Charles Jude) in the grip of the bird of prey, the magician Rothbart (Patrice Bart) in disguise



His new staging follows fairly closely the structure of the traditional version by Petipa and Ivanov, although except for the lakeside scene of Act II he has made mostly new choreography to use the full resources of one of the largest and strongest companies in the world.

The style of the designs, including Franca Squarciapino's delicate and pretty costumes, is a curious but successful mixture of medieval, of Gothic revival and of impressionism, justified intellectually by the fact that Monet and the Pre-Raphaelites both coincided in time with Tchaikovsky and Petipa, and practically because it permits the kind of illusion the production needs.

You can tell from the opening waltz that Nureyev is going to take full advantage of it. He has the music played up, with far more repeats than we are used to, and he ingeniously deploys a total of 32 dancers (including eight soloists) in richly varied patterns that include much bravura

display for every member of the ensemble. The one piece of pure Petipa remaining in Act I, the pas de trois, also uses the large stage space to brilliant result.

The music often used for a comic number with Wolfgang and peasant girl here provides an interlude in which the tutor, played seriously, tries to encourage some liveliness from his mopey pupil. There is a new polonaise, for the male dancers only, and Nureyev's usual solo for prince remains in a slightly adapted form.

The second act, which follows the first without a pause, is the version traditional in Russia which differs in many details from the one familiar in Britain, but not in its underlying patterns. Nureyev keeps all the conventional mime, although he changes some entrances and exits to suit his own dramatic

intentions. It is Act III that has been changed most. Except for the Spanish dance, which looks pretty close to Gorsky's version, Nureyev has choreographed new versions of the national

dances, using large groups for both the czardas and the mazurka (nine couples in each), and making a version of the Neapolitan dance in which eight supporting dancers provide an amusing counterpoint to the leading pair.

The "Black Swan" sequence starts as usual, but quickly changes when Rothbart snatches Odette from Siegfried's arms after the first diagonal and himself partners her in the next passage. Thereafter, they share the partnering, with Rothbart all the time making Odette seem more desirable but harder to get. It is a logical development from the brief intervention Rothbart generally makes, and the whole dance becomes even more exciting, without actually needing to depart far from the Petipa choreography.

No fewer than five women took the ballerina role at successive performances, and there are three more to come during the ballet's next run, from January 11 to 16. The one I found most satisfying was Florence Clerc, very gentle and

vulnerable as Odette, warmly seductive as Odile, dancing both brilliantly and expressively. But Noella Pontois, although imposing little emotion on the role, dances it with superb style, technique and musicality. Elisabeth Platelet's performance shares those qualities to only slightly less degree, and Claude de Vulpien is enchanting in the duets.

The girl the fans were waiting for was Sylvie Guillem. She has an enormous personality, apparently effortless bravura, a whole-hearted manner and a dramatic flair. Regular readers might remember her name from my reports of ballets as varied as La Bayadère, Van Dantzig's No Man's Land and the Balanchine Divertimento No 15. Her Swan Lake debut had, on the whole, good reviews, and it was no surprise when Massimo Bogianckino, director of the Opéra, came on stage with Nureyev at the end to announce her promotion, at only 19, to an étoile or star dancer.

What is more surprising is the standard all through the company revealed not only in Swan Lake but in the annual competition. So much budding talent gives the senior étoiles tough competition. Cyril Atanassoff, at 43, is in excellent form as Siegfried; Michael Denard acts splendidly but in Act III his dancing, good elsewhere, let him down. The younger Charles Jude dances like a dream although his acting slightly lacks punch. Nureyev had to miss one performance through injury, but when he did appear he made no compromises. In the third act solo, for instance, he now does six double tours en l'air in a row, alternately right and left.

Nureyev also played Wolfgang/Rothbart at one performance: a fascinating interpretation, full of quiet authority, which is much the way that Bernard Boucher also plays the part, whereas Patrice Bart adds a more sinister edge even to his Wolfgang. The role works well both ways, as a vital hinge in an imaginative and spirited reinterpretation of a familiar classic.

But when it all this happening? In the 1980s? Apparently, but the local cinema is still open and showing Fred Astaire. And there is something slightly disquieting about Madeleine. Not only is there a character of the same name in the new novel, but this one hardly ever seems to need to come in through a door: she just keeps appearing in the house. When in the aftermath of the jealous quarrel Rosie endeavours to persuade her employer that she has imagined Madeleine, we almost go along with her until the deception is uncovered. But still something is odd and the nature of the address is revealed when we learn that Madeleine Napier was killed in what was plainly the same time and the same house as the novelist was crippled.

But then Mr Read attempted

to signal his imminent departure. He leaves the rooming-house thanks to the good offices of Sky, an itinerant jazz clarinetist, whose music, like that of Orpheus, leads him, but with no looking back, out of this steamy, fetid inferno. Direction and acting did everything to promote this play's effect, and I think that Harry Thompson's documentary, Carry On Up the Shrubbery (Radio 4, January 4; producer, Alastair Wilson) may well rank as one of 1985's most endearing evidences of human eccentricity. This was the story of the rise of British nudism in the 1930 and it has implanted some bizarre images. At the better sort of establishment, the servants wore a vestigial uniform, finding that two of his congregation, fully clad for the occasion, were nudists, adamantly refused them the sacraments. The programme can be heard again this afternoon.

David Wade

Radio Ghostly voices

"Past and present exist coincidentally" remarks one of the characters in The Happiest Women (Radio 4, December 31; director, David Spencer), a play by M. J. Reszais whose name thinly disguised the Martyn Read who played a minor part in that same production and who is author of several other plays for radio - most notably Writing to Train (November 1980). This later transferred to television and also revealed a preoccupation with the past existing in the present.

The Happiest Women took its title from some words of George Eliot to the effect that the happiest women are those who have no history. It concerned one Marjorie Dennis (Mary Morris), like Eliot a novelist, like her too concealed behind a man's name - a woman who has tried to find no history by retreating with her budgeter to a solitary existence in the country after sustaining serious injury in a 1941 air raid. Solitary existence? Not quite, for there is also voluble, matter-of-fact, affectionate Rosie (Elizabeth Frouser) who serves as typist, housekeeper, cook and general minder of her invalid employer and who shares her pleasure in the publication and critical success of a new novel. Among the approving notices is one by Madeleine Napier (Hannah Gordon). Madeleine calls and with Rosie's help prevails on the recluse to see her. Yet in no time at all she threatens to displace Rosie, with whom she finally provokes a furious quarrel.

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David Wade

Opera

Tosca Coliseum

Tosca is not an opera for nice people. It needs three splendid animals to inhabit it, and if the central roles are taken less superbly then the piece begins to seem a trifledrama, maybe just a teeny bit coarse. We can all stand being manipulated by a great singer, but it is a different matter if the main actors in the drama are seen to be just instruments of the composer.

Sadly the English National Opera's current revival boasts only one singer who can take full charge of Puccini's machine: Neil Howlett as a proud, cold and erect Scarpia. It must help that he looks so good in his costume, having the head for a wig and the legs for breeches: Phyllis Cannan as Tosca and Charles Craig as Cavaradossi are by contrast unflatteringly dressed. But Mr Howlett's

Opera

Tosca Coliseum

essential command is vocal. There is a slight rasp at the back of his voice that makes the sound seem to be coming off the edge of an ice cliff, but he does not need this in order to be able to sing with unquestionable authority. He moves little in a production now credited to Stefan Janski. He has no need to. By presence and singing he is all heartless firmness of mind.

Miss Cannan also appears highly determined, and she sings with great intelligence. A few top notes may be inelegant and the bottom of the voice may be toneless on occasion, but it is unusual to hear the part treated with such care for phrasing. If that were all, hers would be an excellent Tosca, but unfortunately other things are required: notably the arrogance and steel that she is not by nature fitted to give. This is a warm, suffering and even maternal Tosca, not the proud lady of the theatre. Miss

Opera

Tosca Coliseum

Cannan, making her debut with the company, will doubtless return in roles better suited to her rich talent.

With newness, experience: Mr Craig made his debut with the company 30 years ago, and I suppose we shall not often be seeing him again. In the first act he showed that he can still sing with as much bravado and indeed beauty as many younger English tenors, and in the "lucerna" he stole" he roused one's spirits after a quite appalling performance of the orchestral introduction. Charles Mackerras, taking an indisposed Gaetano Delogu's place in the pit, found pleasant sounds than this most of the time, though not subtler ones. Anthony Cunningham was a vivacious, portly new Angelotti and Mark Alden a Shepherd Boy of honeyed voice and stamina.

Paul Griffiths

Concert

Peterborough String Orchestra Wigmore Hall

The Peterborough Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1983 as a 12-piece outfit, who would be the first and only full-time professional chamber orchestra resident in and serving the east of England. When I heard them at their original debut on home ground, what characterized them was high-gloss presentation.

On Thursday night, they made their London debut with equal swagger, and showed that they are still very much at the stage where the medium is perilously close to being more important than the message. In Mozart's Divertimento in F, for example, the boundedly exuberant quality of their playing, with its bright open textures and prancing inner parts, compelled attention - but more

Concert

Peterborough String Orchestra Wigmore Hall

to the players themselves and their evangelical zeal than to the essence of the work. Similarly in Barber's Adagio the skein of tightly placed notes, gradually warming towards an overripe centre, threatened at times to lose the thread simply by focusing so closely on it.

The group are most convincing when their exuberant virtuosity is given their head, as it was in a new work commissioned by them from Christopher Brown. Into the Sun is a 15-minute triptych of sun and seascapes. Embedded in its mirages of moto perpetuo, its glassy, Francophile harmonies is a welter of technical tests and effects, each one as cunningly and imaginatively placed as it was played. Seascape, Nocturne and Beachcomber quiver with light and movement, ending in an ebullient rondo, with galloping staccato triplets in harmonies.

Hilary Finch

Television

Appearances by black girls or white boys were restricted to token cameos on either side, so Lambeth appeared to be an ecosystem in which dark skin could only be inherited on the Y chromosome. Occasionally a specimen youth raised issues of tantalising interest - as when they discussed envy, and the real significance of mugging - but these were not pursued with the commitment they deserved.

The director of last night's picture, Rob Rohrer, seemed to lack conviction in the task of presenting a selection of young men and women as representatives of their generation. The realist traditions of Reszais's film have now been inherited by television drama and documentaries in turn are required to be tougher, more factual and more self-aware.

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Celia Brayfield

Entertainments

Continued from page 16

THEATRES

ROYAL COURT THEATRE 31-35 St Martin's Lane, W.C.2. Tel: 01-253 8681. THE WAY OF THE WORLD. Directed by Peter Hall. Cast: John Wood, Joan Plowright, Michael Jayston.

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SADLER'S WELLS 278 8918. THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS. Directed by Peter Hall. Cast: John Wood, Joan Plowright, Michael Jayston.

ST MARTIN'S 836 1443. THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS. Directed by Peter Hall. Cast: John Wood, Joan Plowright, Michael Jayston.

THE SWINGING GATE. Directed by Peter Hall. Cast: John Wood, Joan Plowright, Michael Jayston.

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NATIONAL THEATRE

NATIONAL THEATRE South Bank. THE WAY OF THE WORLD. Directed by Peter Hall. Cast: John Wood, Joan Plowright, Michael Jayston.

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David Hart

# Star Wars: best hope for peace

The Russians have decided that they want to talk about arms control after all. Certainly control of American arms. It would be surprising if they had not. Quite apart from their evident fear of President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative, arms control has worked well for them:

A list of Soviet treaty violations and probable violations was prepared in October 1984 by a bipartisan congressional committee from information provided by the Administration. Violations include the production of chemical and biological weapons and their use in Laos, Kampuchea and Afghanistan; the venting of radio-active debris from nuclear tests; the conversion of launchers for light ballistic missiles into launchers for heavy missiles; encoding of missile test information; and the construction of the SS-X-25.

The 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty bans the construction of a certain kind of "phased-array" radar, essential to control ABM missiles except "along the periphery of each country's national territory". The Soviet Union has constructed one such radar at Krasnyarsk, 1,800 miles from any border and close to an important ballistic missile site. The Russians have not noticeably complained of American treaty violations.

When President Reagan came to office, Mutually Assured Destruction was the principal concept of American nuclear deterrence. Apply the acronym MAD.

The resurgence of the European peace movement and its potential for dividing the alliance must be seen by the Soviets as another achievement of arms control.

Arms control has also been good for the Soviets another way. It has enabled them to build up their accurate land-based missile force.

President Reagan's solution, SDI is a proposal to research a land and space based defensive system that will render MAD obsolete, make a Soviet first strike capability impotent, and the Soviet treaty violations largely irrelevant.

Why is Europe so unenthusiastic? First, SDI is a radically new idea from a president not thought by many Europeans to be capable of such radical thinking.

Second, several European leaders do not understand it. Third, the British and French think that a copycat Soviet SDI might render their nuclear weapons impotent.

Fourth, SDI is a radical new idea from a president not thought by many Europeans to be capable of such radical thinking. Second, several European leaders do not understand it.

Roy Strong

# When white is wonderful

A flurry of snow threw a thin mantle of white over the branches of the trees the other day. Two lines come to mind whenever I see it. One is by Christina Rossetti in her carol *In the deep, deep snow* with its words "snow on snow on snow, the other occurs in Christopher Fry's play, *The Dark is Light Enough*, where someone refers to the snow outside falling "soft and white as a bishop's hand in blessing".

As romance and spectacle, snow made a late debut. On the whole it figures as just bad weather, a harbinger of misery, cold and inconvenience, certainly not as something to enjoy, let alone make the subject of works of art. I always think of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries as snow centuries whereas it doesn't figure in my vision of either the eighteenth or the twentieth. This is probably the result of weather history, for both the former were marked by intensely cold winters, ones which, in our case, we saw the Thames frozen over. One I actually met someone who remembered, as a child in the 1880s, when that last happened.

Can anything in fact have been more picturesque than those Frost Fairs held in Fenny's day when shops and booths sprang up across the ice-bound river? Coaches and sledges plied their way along this highway and Evelyn describes "sheds, sliding with skates, or bull-baiting, horse and coach races, puppet-shows and interludes, cooks, tipping and other lewd places; so that it seemed to be a bacchanalian triumph or carnival on water".

Shortly after, in 1691, came the first major snow and ice scene on stage in Purcell's *King Arthur*. It had nothing to do with the main plot and actually met someone who remembered, as a child in the 1880s, when that last happened.

Such lapses are the inevitable result of a stream of thought that romanticizes snow. It is canonized above all in the Christmas carols whose iconography remains as fixed as the bad weather conditions of late Victorian England. Ladies in vast crinolines trudge to church through mountains of snow; churchgoers clutching lanterns, chorusing away as it engulfs them, while the poor starved robin perches forlornly on a snow-laden bough. And snow is surely what accounts for the popularity of what otherwise would make a very odd addition to the Anglican calendar, St. Vincentmas. He would have sun, without trace years ago. He had undertaken his mission in conditions any other than "of snow, deep and crisp and even".

Some European leaders speak of the success of nuclear deterrence. True there has been no use of nuclear weapons since 1945. But there has been international adventure of a kind that could have led to nuclear war, even when the Americans had a monopoly of nuclear weapons.

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David Hewson on the technological challenge - obscured by the licence fee debate

# Space age dilemmas for the BBC

There is a world of difference between the sort of satellite currently used by channels such as Sky and those planned for DBS. The former are low-power systems designed to be received through large dish aerials by cable companies which then transmit them to their customers. Transmissions by the latter are powerful enough to be received by the individual aerials of private homes.

It can be of little comfort to either BBC or ITV that they are making such slow headway in both technological fields. The ITV companies have a direct financial incentive to become involved in satellite - they have been led to believe that such a decision would lead to an extension of their terrestrial broadcasting franchises, thereby lengthening their lucrative monopoly of television advertising. But ITV itself may yet get cold feet. The Treasury is murmuring about increasing the Exchequer levy on the ITV companies, perhaps in conjunction with a squeezed licence fee settlement at the BBC.

If that happens, a number of ITV boards may decide that the dubious exercise of investing in DBS should be left to other investors. The cost to themselves in lost outlets for their programmes could be high, but the game of bluff is already being proposed in crucial corners of the commercial network.

The promise of the new broadcasting media has turned full circle in the past five years. Initially it was thought that they would break the traditional "duopoly" of BBC and the ITV companies. Lately, it has been held that, through the DBS partnership, they would simply enhance that grip.

The emerging truth seems to be that the duopoly itself is far from secure and must look at its own structure to survive and maintain the high standards expected of British broadcasting. It can only be a matter of regret that the two main parties cannot address themselves to the real agenda, the BBC because it can only put forward the view that what it does now is the correct way for it to proceed, and the ITV companies because a change in the system would mean an end to their advertising monopoly.

The Government wants DBS much more than the broadcasters because it thinks we should be pushing back the frontiers of satellite television, regardless of what we broadcast. If that's their position, they have to realize that we can't make it pay through Unisat alone.

If the satellite contract is put out to tender, a British DBS system might be on the air by late 1988. That could be too late - a French DBS satellite which has a "footprint" - or coverage area - over most of Britain will be launched in the autumn of 1986. News International's satellite television channel, Sky, is already negotiating about using the system to broadcast an English language service direct to receivers, though no decision has yet been made to start one.

The same sort of harsh economics apply to the idea of financing a large television organization from the proceeds of cable subscriptions. The cost of building a cable company is colossal: British Telecom currently estimate that a high-technology system passing 100,000 homes, 35 per cent of which would subscribe, demands an investment of at least £42m. This means that the income earned by cable will largely be used

1984 could hardly have been worse for the BBC. Poor ratings, managerial upheavals and the probable loss of the monopoly on programme information which makes *Radio Times* so profitable would have dampened spirits at Broadcasting House on their own.

But worse by far was the miserable public and political reception for a £65 licence fee. One can understand executives' feelings of resentment directed at Downing Street. It must be galling indeed to assemble everyone from the chairman down, and a hefty press kit, to explain the need for a 40 per cent increase in the licence fee - only to have the Prime Minister choose that very day to publicize her preference for the BBC to carry advertising.

No one will admit it publicly, but there is now a general agreement within the Corporation that the present licence fee settlement will be the last in which the BBC is funded by licence fees alone. That should not surprise anyone. The BBC has been at great pains to emphasize that at £65, BBC television is "the best bargain in Britain." Compared to the price of cable television subscriptions of up to £20 a month, or the cost of a video recorder, it is.

The saddest aspect of this sorry interlude is that the argument about how the BBC should be funded is starting to overshadow a much more fundamental and important question: the nature of the BBC itself. Given that the Corporation, much against its wishes, will not be allowed to remain unchanged in a changing world, how should it respond to cable and satellite? What is the BBC for?

A common thread running through letters received by *The Times* is that the BBC should not ape ITV. It is tempting to think that had the BBC been performing well, in terms of programme quality and the viewers it attracts, there would have been less outcry about the size of its demands. Certainly it is no longer possible to detect a difference in quality between BBC and ITV programmes, particularly since the arrival of Channel 4. The Corporation's house style seems to have gone for good.

There is a link between quality and money in television, though it cannot always be guaranteed to work. But that does not mean that the Corporation could not be told, for instance, to retrench its vast activities a little, and settle for a lower licence fee which would be used to steer it back on an individual course. The problem with that is that an individual course may not attract high ratings, and if the ratings are poor, how can a fee payable by all television viewers be justified?

A few years ago, when the BBC was going through its ritual agonizing over the fact that the licence fee might not last forever, there occurred "the tidy notion that it might eventually raise most of its income through pay-as-you-watch television provided by cable or satellite. It is an attractive idea, but one which experience has scuppered.

The latest calculations of the satellite partnership with ITV companies predict that even with a £20 monthly subscription - at a cost of nearly four times the £65 annual fee now being sought - the system would probably not break even for at least eight years.

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SPORTING DIARY  
Simon Barnes

# Caught in the network

Tennis fans upset over the tantrums of John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors will no doubt applaud the action of Harry Merlo, president of the Louisiana-Pacific Corporation, in threatening to withdraw his company's sponsorship of the United States Davis Cup team unless the American Tennis Association adopts a code of conduct for its players in Cup competitions.

Merlo watched his country's players go down 1-4 to Sweden in the final in Goteborg last month. Connors was fined \$2,000 for three incidents in the match that led to his defeat by Mats Wilander, and McEnroe was openly critical of the court's condition and the timing of the final. What probably made things worse was the impeccable sportsmanship and fine demeanour shown by the young Swedes.

# Here for the beer

One of the most intriguing ties of the FA Cup third round today is the battle between Leicester City of the first division and non-league Burton Albion, to be played at Derby County's ground. It happens that both sides are sponsored by Ind Coope, the brewers last month. The normal circumstances both bear the name on their shirts. But for this occasion the brewers had had a new set specially made for Burton reading "Ind Coope Burton". It is the first match between the two sides - but not the first between the two towns. Leicester Fosse played Burton United in the FA Cup 81 years ago. The tie was not decided until the second replay - at Derby. Burton won 2-0.

Hereford, at home to Arsenal in the FA Cup today, have met some of the demand for seats by borrowing pews from a local church. Hereford director Archie Phillips says he expects "pretty heavy praying".

# Follow-on

People who read *Wisden* do not care greatly for monstrous change and upheaval. So the news that the company publishing it was sold this week for £400,000 is not reassuring. Are there vast changes afoot? Could the ultimate horror be perpetrated, and the cover come out in a colour other than yellow? Well, the birth and death section is being extended, though that was already under way. The buyers, the specialist printing group McCorquodale, have printed the almanac since 1964, and have an association with *Wisden* that goes back even further. "Their hearts are in it", said a director in charge of Wisden, Graeme Wright. "The news is that there is no news".

# New Year's heave

The French boomerang champion, Jacques Sotty, is bent on proving the artificiality of manmade divisions of time. He managed to throw a boomerang in 1984 and to catch it in 1985 - though he needed three attempts. His first hit a lamp post, and he failed to catch the second, but his third, around the obelisk in the Place de la Concorde in Paris, landed in his hands as the clocks chimed midnight. Now he wants to go to the international dateline to try and catch a boomerang on the day before he threw it.

# Cold comfort

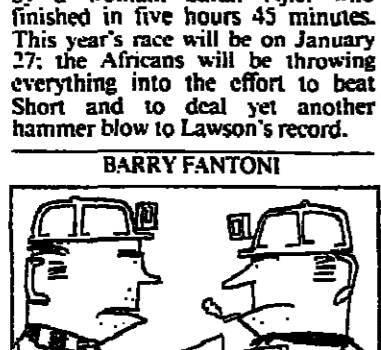
A German guidebook claims to have discovered why we Brits are so keen on sport. "As usual the weather is to blame", the book says: never too warm or too cold and never rainy long enough to kill off the fascination with games.

Quote of the week: "I don't care if he's George Best or Pele - unless he's willing to do hard training he won't get a look-in" - Malcolm Hoelman, manager of the football team at Ford open prison.

# Going up

I have sad news for Keith Lawson, who wondered if his 1956 record for running up and down the volcanic Mount Cameroon in six hours still stands. Not only has the record been beaten comprehensively and frequently, but the mountain is 76 feet higher than in Lawson's day, an eruption taking it to 13,353 feet. An annual race sponsored by Guinness has been run for the past ten years. The record now stands at four hours, six minutes, set last year by Mike Short, a fell runner from Bolton who broke an African eight-year monopoly of victories. Sadder still for Lawson, his record has been beaten by a woman, Sarah Njite, who finished in five hours 45 minutes. This year's race will be on January 27; the Africans will be throwing everything into the effort to beat Short and to deal yet another hammer blow to Lawson's record.

BARRY FANTONI



There are, according to a young man from the Ministry of Islamic Guidance, 10,000 people buried in each of the closely packed, hazy square plots in the cemetery, and now there are nearly 40 squares. As dusk gathered one recent Friday, processions formed in the new, partly filled sections; on one side is the dense warren of graves with their cabinets of pictures, made almost carnival-like by the many coloured flags flying overhead - for Islam, for mourning, for martyrdom, for the army. On the other, acres of flat tan earth stretch out, freshly levelled and prepared for new graves, with shallow indentations marking the rows that will be filled.

"Death to USA" says the legend greeting travellers in huge letters on the outside wall of the international terminal at Mehrabad airport. The man standing next to me in the line

# John Kifner revisits Iran, a land obsessed with martyrdom



One small section of Behesht-e-Zahra cemetery, resting place of 400,000 'martyrs' - and still growing

Tehran

A fountain of blood cascades crimson in the bright sunlight of the martyrs' cemetery. Coloured water really, but chillingly realistic. The fountain gushes in the middle of Behesht-e-Zahra, the sprawling still growing cemetery for Iranians who died six years ago in the revolution that overthrew the Shah and for those killed over the last four years in the grinding border war with Iraq.

Row upon row, acre after acre, the graves stretch out, each topped by a little glass-fronted cupboard holding photographs of the deceased and, perhaps, a bunch of plastic flowers, a small Koran or other mementos.

"Have you seen the fountain of blood?" Iranians ask as I wander through the cemetery. They pull at my sleeve, inordinately proud. The cemetery has grown so large that there are auxiliary fountains in the new sections, and in the long shedlike shelter that is sometimes used when a crowd assembles for dawn prayers, there is a working model of a new fountain. It pulsates, pumping out the red liquid as would an open heart.

My return to Iran this autumn was a rare visit by an American correspondent from a major publication. I was struck anew by the obsession with martyrdom, and by the institutionalization of the ideology. The constant agitation of the crowds in the street that I remembered from past visits has given way to relative calm, even while war and death are subjects of public absorption.

On Friday, the Muslim sabbath, I found the cemetery thronged as usual. Black-clad women and family groups sit by the flat marble slabs covering the graves. Many bring picnic lunches and stay all day.

At special times, the fourth day after a death or the yearly anniversary, crowds of friends and relatives gather, bringing huge painted portraits of their martyr and listening to a ballad sing of his virtues while they answer in chorus *Allahu Akbar, God is Great*. People offer trays of a sticky, fudge-like confectionery or little pastries to others passing by.

There are, according to a young man from the Ministry of Islamic Guidance, 10,000 people buried in each of the closely packed, hazy square plots in the cemetery, and now there are nearly 40 squares. As dusk gathered one recent Friday, processions formed in the new, partly filled sections; on one side is the dense warren of graves with their cabinets of pictures, made almost carnival-like by the many coloured flags flying overhead - for Islam, for mourning, for martyrdom, for the army. On the other, acres of flat tan earth stretch out, freshly levelled and prepared for new graves, with shallow indentations marking the rows that will be filled.

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# Where death has become a way of life



homes, which once might be raided on suspicion of drinking or other evils, is to be respected. But there are patrols of Islamic enforcers in white Nissan jeeps who can grab a woman off the streets if they do not like her garb - perhaps her scarf is set too far back, showing a fringe of hair - and carry her off to Evin prison, where she is treated as a prostitute.

A European diplomat, offering a welcome glass of a satanic beverage, reflected on the difficulty for a westerner in understanding Iran. Almost anyone you might have social contact with is critical of the regime, he explained, but this is highly unrepresentative. "The revolution", he said, "still enjoys a vast base of support in a nation overwhelmingly poor and devout, not least because it is seen as trying, whatever the shortcomings, to improve their lives".

The whisky and wine he was serving had been imported under a *de facto* arrangement negotiated between the diplomats and the authorities.

Today, the nation is effectively administered through the mosques. Draped in coloured lights and hung with revolutionary exhortations, they are a sort of party ward headquarters. And, in the Shiite tradition, Friday prayer is an essentially political event, with a pulpit lecture on issues of the day.

Despite the hopes of its exiled opponents and the chaos and infighting of its first years, the theocratic revolution appears to have institutionalized itself. "This government is stable," one European diplomat told me, and another added: "The government gets more and more solid." Of the untidy alliance that opposed the Shah - westernized intellectuals, leftist students educated abroad, disaffected government officials and technocrats, traditionalist merchants of the powerful bazaar, slum dwellers of south Tehran and the militant fundamentalist mullahs - it is the Shiite clergy who have survived and triumphed.

They have also ruthlessly suppressed their opponents. The Paris-based National Council of Resistance, a coalition of 15 exile groups opposing the regime, claims that 40,000 people have been executed in the last three years and that at least 120,000 people are political prisoners. Those executed have ranged from generals and senior

officials of the old regime charged with corruption to alleged adulterers or drug dealers publicly stoned or hanged.

"Of course, the real question is what happens after Khomeini dies," said a western diplomat, voicing the thought that is in everyone's mind. The Ayatollah is 85 and is frequently reported to be in frail health, although he is abstemious and hoards his energy in a tightly guarded suburban villa in north Tehran, retiring for weeks at a time.

While the Ayatollah's immense charismatic power largely derives from the person reverence accorded him as an impeccable foe of the Shah and of foreign influence, his constitutional position is that of Velayat-e-Faghih, or Supreme Religious Guide. As such, he is, in a manner of speaking, standing in for the Twelfth, or hidden, Imam, the redeemer, who is said to have disappeared in a cave 11 centuries ago and is to return some day to order the perfect society.

In December 1982, an assembly of experts, an 83-member clerical body, was chosen to determine the succession to the post of Velayat-e-Faghih. The job may be taken by a single senior cleric or by a panel of three or five Ayatollahs. Ayatollah Khomeini himself has long let it be known that his own favourite is his former student and revolutionary colleague Ayatollah Hussein Ali Montazeri. Ayatollah Montazeri has been regarded in some intellectual circles as a loyal but somewhat cynical sidekick - and his scholarly credentials are questioned.

But he has recently been named a Grand Ayatollah and his pronouncements are widely published. "Montazeri has been built up to a strong figure," said a western diplomat, "but he wouldn't be such a godlike figure as Khomeini".

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THE LONG ARM OF ISRAEL

And afterwards Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, "Thus said the Lord God of Israel, 'Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness.'"

The modern-day successors of Moses and Aaron found the authorities in the Sudan and Ethiopia more amenable than the Pharaoh was when they sought to lead out the so-called "lost tribe", the 25,000 Falashas, who since antiquity have practised a sort of Judaism in Ethiopia.

Newspapers, whose function is disclosure, can be expected to disapprove of attempts to keep secret so huge an event as this, but clearly there were "valid humanitarian reasons for keeping the story within the fairly wide 'informed circles'". It is not

altogether fanciful to think the intransigence of the Pharaoh remains in Israeli minds; more immediately, the Sudan authorities, although they must have known what was happening, would be embarrassed before their Arab friends if publicity had been given to this Jewish venture. Israel is reportedly angry that disclosure has come now, and is punishing allegedly "leaky officials", but it is surely too much to expect such a secret to be kept for ever.

Israel, of course, was born in order to be a homeland for all the Jewish people, and so the welcome to the Falashas is in accordance with practice. But it is nevertheless an admirable action. There are obviously problems in absorbing people accustomed to a more primitive way of life into a modern state such as Israel. The fact that so many are ill and suffering from the effects of the famine has made things more difficult. Reports speak of people initially bewildered and frightened by the white coats and bustle of Israeli hospitals and reception centres.

The total of 25,000 (if all the Falashas come) is not enough to have a real effect on Israel's

population, but it will be another factor in what some critics see as the strains coming from the increasing stratification of Israeli life. In spite of a determination to form a homogeneous nation - helped by one language, Hebrew, and a common religion - there have been signs for some time of a cultural split between European and Middle Eastern traditions. The presence of the Falashas is in itself a sign of tolerance, evidence of the falsity of the accusations that there is in Israeli anti-Arab sentiments an element of colonialism, of colour prejudice even.

The cost of Operation Moses, including the absorption of the new arrivals, is high: unofficial estimates speak of \$300 million. It was the need to raise funds by public appeal that led to the disclosure of what was happening. The cost will be partly met by special fund-raising activities in the United States apart from other considerations. The exercise could also be regarded as an effective form of famine relief. Critical Arab states are liable to find themselves asked to what extent they are willing to welcome the needy within their borders.

AND SO TO GENEVA

Messrs George Schultz and Andrei Gromyko assemble for their much-heralded meeting at Geneva on Monday, after reports of disagreements in Washington, doubts in Nato, scepticism elsewhere - and a rogue Russian missile which nearly gave a new meaning to like old times.

But are things quite the same? "These are new negotiations," insisted Mr Mikhail Gorbachev on his pre-Christmas visit to London, twelve months after the Soviet Union stalked out of the old ones. And of course in a sense he is right. In form and to some extent in content they are likely to differ from those which went before, encouraging fresh hopes for their future.

Similar expectations attended the opening of the SALT (later SALT II) negotiations 15 years ago. The more visionary dreams vanished in the murk of that first Winter in Helsinki. But SALT trickled on to produce some positive and lasting results.

The most notable of these was the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty of 1972 which enshrined the principle of Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD). We now need to look for new solutions, beyond that old doctrine which was so curious an acronym. But the ABM Treaty was an appropriate achievement in the early 1970s.

The accompanying agreement on offensive missiles in that SALT-1 package, reflected the failure by Washington to appreciate, not for the first time, the pace of advancing Soviet technology. The development of multiple-warheads by Moscow, together with improvements in missile accuracy, led to a new threat to American ICBMs in their mid-Western silos.

It was the failure of the SALT-2 treaty to remove this threat which fed controversy in Congress and prompted its eventual withdrawal, unratified, from the Senate after the Soviet invasion

of Afghanistan. But both governments have said that they would abide by the terms of the treaty - which imposed ceilings and sub-ceilings on missile numbers and types.

Since then two other issues have been added to the complexities of nuclear arms control. One was the replacement by the Russians of their old SS-4 and SS-5 medium/intermediate-range missiles by the more accurate, mobile, wider-ranging SS-20, which increased the perceived threat to Western Europe and prompted the deployment of American cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in reply. Then came the Geneva talks on Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) talks between 1981 and 1983, which collapsed when the Russians walked out.

The other new element is Space. Throughout the last two years, and particularly since President Reagan's so-called Star Wars speech in March 1983 the Soviet Union has made no secret of its concern over the American anti-satellite weapons programme and the President's Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI). It would probably have tried to find a way back to the negotiating table anyway. But the fear of being left behind in a space race - and of the economic consequences of trying to catch up - has given Moscow a fresh sense of urgency.

The superpowers in one sense find themselves now in a situation which is all too familiar, facing old problems with no new answers to them. The United States remains worried by the throw-weight of Soviet land-based ICBMs, while the future of its own MX missile is clouded by Congressional opposition.

Soviet deployment of the SS-20 continues (some 258 with 23 warheads apiece now face Western Europe) while 45 Pershing-2 and 48 cruise missiles are now in place in the West. How to

quantify one threat vis-à-vis another, how to square like with unlike given the differing history and composition of the two strategic arsenals, still require immense technical expertise and political will. So too does the problem of verification in the face of repeated Russian violations of treaty commitments.

The new question is how far the American anti-satellite weapons programme and President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative will influence Soviet policy at the Geneva talks - and persuade them to honour the agreements they sign there. And how will both sides cope with the complexities of "umbrella" negotiations covering not only strategic and intermediate-range nuclear weapons, but also space research and development programmes?

The most obvious division of labour in future arms talks would be for one team of experts to deal with the nuclear weapons and another to look after space - with political linkage between the two. The Russians might not agree to a distinction between "offensive" and "defensive" systems, but they might see the practical wisdom of separating weapons which actually exist from those which are still on the drawing board or at best in an experimental stage.

Will Mr Gromyko seek an early gesture from the Americans at Geneva - a declaration in principle on ASAT development? Certainly the world should not expect too much soon from two days of discussion whose objective is to establish the modalities rather than seek instant solutions. But the fact that the superpowers are talking again is to be welcomed. The more difficult the issues the more imperative it is that we establish the right dialogue to explore them, without resorting to the tactics of bluster and pique which have been the hallmark of recent Soviet diplomacy.

Effective deal on public spending

From Mr Aubrey Jones

Sir, The controversy now raging in the Conservative Party on the amount of Government spending is a well-worn disc. An early recording was played in the 1930s before President Roosevelt's Temporary National Economic Committee. I quote: Senator King (of Utah) isn't it a fact that you should make a proper appraisal of the amount which is coming out of the Federal Treasury... it would be a very large part of the national income?

Dr Lubin (Commissioner of Labor Statistics) is a significant amount, very definitely. The question is not only how significant it is in terms of dollars, but also how significant it is in creating jobs... That to me is the measure of its real significance. If it has a stimulating effect and helps keep things going, then I would say the amount isn't so very great, if as a result of every dollar you spend, you increase the income of our workers two or three times. I think that is the only criterion we can use in judging whether or not these expenditures should be made.

Senator King If you adopt a policy under which 30 to 40 per cent of the gross income of the United States is taken by the Government... is it not a fact that you are drying up the fountains of private industry which would give employment to a large number of people?

Dr Lubin I will say this: If by spending 30 billion dollars you increase the national income by 40 billion, you've made a swell investment.

Senator King Do I understand you to mean the more the Federal Government takes from the people and spends, the better is it for the people?

Dr Lubin It depends on the conditions. If everybody is working and such expenditures mean that the Government comes in and competes with private industry for labor and materials, I would say no; but if there are people unemployed and the factories unused and if by spending money the Government can create jobs in those factories so that not only will wages be more plentiful, but profits and dividends larger, I'd say yes.

One cannot in retrospect say that Roosevelt's New Deal was wrong; not that it achieved unemployment - that achievement was to be credited to the Second World War - but at least it increased the effectiveness of American industry for entry into the war.

Yours faithfully, AUBREY JONES, Churchill College, Cambridge, January 2.

Famine in Africa

From Dr Andrew R. Potter

Sir, I have for the past three months been travelling in central Africa. During this period the horrors of widespread famine in the sub-Saharan belt of Africa have been adequately exposed.

However if the north-eastern part of Zaire and along much of the southern area of Central African Republic (both neighbours to southern Sudan with its famine and refugee problem) I saw food, most fruit, lying rotting on the ground. Why? Because the roads and railways have been permitted to fall into such states of disrepair that overland travel is all but impossible. A journey of 100 miles can take two days. The peoples of these areas remain poor but well fed.

If some of the money that is being poured heedlessly into sending food to famine areas could be diverted into restoring road and rail communications, fertile food-growing areas could export their produce into neighbouring countries. Relieving famine on one hand and giving wealth on the other.

Yours faithfully, ANDREW R. POTTER, 35 Liners Wood Close, Bramley, Guildford, Surrey, December 28.

Quick off the mark

From Mr Peter Metcalfe

Sir, May I record, through your columns, the occurrence of the first hat-trick of 1985? During the annual New Year's Day match between Settle Optimists and Austwick Village (played for the Ashes of the Christmas tree brought to the first ever match, now lovingly preserved in a sweet jar in the local pub) an Austwick bowler, Paul Wilson, performed this feat in his first over.

Although I was unlucky enough to be his first victim, I feel that this event is worthy of note. It took place shortly before midday at Settle (W Long 2 12).

Allowing for local time differences, I wonder if your correspondents at home or abroad are aware of an earlier instance of the hat trick this year.

Yours faithfully, PETER METCALFE, (Secretary, Settle Optimists CC), 3 Brans Gill, Hornon-in-Ribblesdale, Settle, North Yorkshire, January 2.

Indian winter

From the Editor of The Sikh Messenger

Sir, I write to you as a British Sikh, with no interest in the petty politics of the sub-continent to protest against your inaccurate and insensitive leader, "Indian winter" (December 18) which showed evidence of bias against Sikhs that clearly borders on the defamatory. For example, you write of the "cold-blooded killing of hundreds of Hindus by Sikh terrorists". What evidence is there to support such an allegation? Even the Indian Government's own White Paper refrains from such wild exaggeration of fact, and emotive use of language.

Uncertain outlook on Nobel prizes

From the Treasurer of the Royal Society

Sir, The Ambassador of Sweden, in his letter of December 31, pays a graceful compliment to the record of British scientists in winning Nobel prizes. However, because the prizes are usually awarded for discoveries made at least a decade earlier, they reflect past rather than present performance and are an uncertain guide to the future.

Unfortunately the brain drain of the 1960s deprived this country of many outstanding scientists, a good number of whom have been elected or are candidates for election to fellowship of the Royal Society for work they have done in countries which are now our strongest industrial competitors. Even more worrying is the continuing loss of talent especially in the physical sciences and fields of high technology.

Unless something is done to improve the opportunities and facilities at home for these potential leaders (and it is the most able and enterprising who tend to leave), we are not likely to win many Nobel prizes in the future. Perhaps even more important, many of them will become competitors instead of contributors to British industry.

On the positive side, Sir Keith Joseph has recently recognized "the plight of our scientists" and deserves credit for fighting for a little more public money for scientific research on which new industries and new jobs will largely depend.

However, government, industry and the scientific community together must do a good deal better over the next few years if we are not to fall irrevocably behind our industrial competitors. There is a danger that our past achievements may make us too complacent.

Yours faithfully, JOHN MASON, Treasurer, The Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, SW1, January 2.

Soviet defectors

From Mr Vladimir Bukovsky

Sir, It was with great astonishment that I have read in The Times Diary (November 12, 1984) a statement by Count Tolstoy condemning Lord Bethell for saving lives of two former Soviet soldiers who defected from their units in Afghanistan and recently returned to the Soviet Union.

Tolstoy claims that these two soldiers were "the last people who should have been brought over", that he "knew all about" them, but alas, "Lord Bethell never sought our help or advice". Yet, just six months before making such "condemnation" Count Tolstoy "offered the hospitality of his home at Abingdon, Oxfordshire" to exactly the same two soldiers (The Times Diary, May 16, 1984) and claimed that they appealed to him as president of Sparc (Soviet Prisoners Afghan Rescue Committee).

Furthermore, Tolstoy now complains that the whole episode may ruin his and his committee's chances "to bring out about 20 other soldiers at a time when we are gaining the confidence of Western governments to accept them".

Let me make absolutely clear that Count Tolstoy and his committee are eager to take credit for something they did not achieve, while being equally eager to condemn those who did. To the best of my knowledge, the Sparc did not manage to bring any Soviet defectors from Afghanistan to a safe haven in the West. Nor did they have any real chance of achieving it because their activity is limited by issuing general statements and appeals to the public at large.

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(December 31) concerning British Nobel prizes. He and your readers may be interested to know that the distribution of Britain's share of these prizes between physics and chemistry bears a substantially inverse relationship to the resources allocated to these sciences.

Thus in this year, out of its total budget of about £260 million, the Science and Engineering Research Council allocated some £7 million to support fundamental research in chemistry. As far as I am aware, there is no other UK body or agency which supports fundamental research in this field.

On the other hand a very strong positive correlation exists between our success in Nobel chemistry prizes and our success in industrial applications, i.e., the UK chemical industry. This, our largest and most successful high-technology industry, during 1980 provided a positive trade balance of some £2,100 million, which is more than the rest of UK manufacturing industry put together!

In spite of this circumstance, SERC support of fundamental research and training in chemistry, which underpins the research base of this industry, is currently only about 5% per cent of its total budget. This amount is completely inadequate for the job in hand. It is particularly sad since we are obviously good at this science, and very successful in its application to produce jobs for people and profits for industry.

It is my view that unless the present funding priorities are changed, which means a switch away from the present commitment to large and expensive installations towards the support of more nationally relevant science, then the "brilliant performance in chemistry" to which the Ambassador refers will fade away, and with it our most successful high-technology industry.

Yours faithfully, J. E. BALDWIN, University of Oxford, The Dyson Perrins Laboratory, South Parks Road, Oxford, December 31.

50 years on

From Dr Alan Bailey

Sir, For family reasons I recently obtained a copy of The Church Times, dated Friday, December 28, 1934. In it I read that by slightly abridging Handel's Messiah it has been brought "within the compass of eight twelve-inch discs." How I marvel at the progress made over the last 50 years when I drive along the motorway listening to my unabridged stereophonic version contained in a cassette measuring less than 12 square inches.

I work in the field of information technology, where success can be measured by how much information one can store on a tiny chip of silicon. Again I marvel at the progress.

But wait, I read on: the first leader reports the Archbishop of Canterbury's new year message. He appeals to the nation "to refuse to spread the infectious disease of fear, fear indeed dominates the world." He continues: It is responsible for the failure to secure international agreement on disarmament. It is responsible for a series of violent political crimes on the part both of Governments and of individuals.

It is responsible for the spending of money and energy on the invention and manufacture of instruments of destruction rather than on the provision of bread for the hungry and employment for the workless.

Fifty years on, Archbishop Lang, you would not marvel at our progress. Yours thoughtfully, ALAN BAILEY, Director, Medical Information Technology, BUPA Bristol Research Office, Victoria Street, Bristol, Avon, December 21.

Prescription of drugs

From Mr Frank Breen

Sir, Dr Dixey's letter under your title "prescription of drugs" (December 19) calls for a pharmaceutical organization to co-operate with the DHSS in its efforts to produce a mutually acceptable list to exclude the many drugs that experts would themselves never use and to do all that they can to do what is needed to make the eventual list work well.

Yours sincerely, FRANK BREEN, 105 Bushey Hill Road, SE5, December 19.

hand the pharmaceutical professional organizations have indicated their willingness to discuss the list. One would hope that Dr Dixey would use his best offices to encourage his professional organization to co-operate with the DHSS in its efforts to produce a mutually acceptable list to exclude the many drugs that experts would themselves never use and to do all that they can to do what is needed to make the eventual list work well.

Yours faithfully, FRANK BREEN, 105 Bushey Hill Road, SE5, December 19.

At the present moment the BMA has refused to respond to the DHSS invitation for consultations on the composition of the list. On the other

into the killings, which the Indian Government is consistently refusing, it must be assumed that the majority of those killed were innocent pilgrims, men, women and children. You rightly refer to the Sikh sense of alienation. How could it be otherwise when the Punjab is still under military rule and, under new laws promulgated for Punjab alone, the onus is on the arrested person to prove his innocence (in a closed court). This sense of outrage is made infinitely worse by the unjustified slurs made on the Sikhs by those the community look to to champion the cause of basic human rights for Sikhs in India.

Yours faithfully, J. SINGH, Editor, The Sikh Messenger, 43 Dorset Road, Merton Park, SW19, December 20.

In the course of a speech on December 4, 1981 the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Neville Chamberlain, remarked that "... it is the duty of the taxpayer to pay his tax and pay it as early as he can." The half yearly demands ceased in 1944, when following the recommendation of John Maynard Keynes, PAYE was introduced.

INCOME TAX QUEUES WIDESPREAD EARLY PAYMENT

The response to the appeal for a prompt payment of income tax this year continues on a scale which has astonished the collectors. Reports from all parts of the country show that, instead of waiting for the final notice demanding payment, people are making personal calls to pay the three-quarters instalment now due, or are sending cheques several weeks earlier than usual. Payment of surtax is also satisfactory. This is sent direct to Somerset House and it was stated yesterday that the money is coming in very well.

The revenue will be helped by the action taken by many firms which have arranged to pay the income-tax of their staffs and recover the amount by deductions from salaries. In a number of cases employers are paying not only the general tax but that under Schedule A where employees have their houses. It is understood that assistance to staffs has been so widely given that the Revenue authorities are considering the possibility of a permanent arrangement to be worked on a voluntary basis.

The following reports from Correspondents show the general readiness of taxpayers to help the country by early payments...

CARDIFF The rush of income-tax payers shows no sign of abatement. An augmented staff has been working 12 hours a day to cope with the pressure, and even on Sunday a full staff was at work dealing with cheques and money orders received by post. The receipts since New Year's Day have averaged well over £20,000 a day. A local official said: "I have never known anything like it. Cardiff has suffered a very small recession from trade depression, but the promptitude with which people have been coming forward to pay their dues shows that they have fully realized the difficulties with which the country is faced. It is a magnificent response to the Chancellor's appeal."

LEEDS The response made to the appeal to pay income-tax early in January has proved embarrassing to Leeds collectors. From January 1 there has been no cessation of crowds eager to produce three-quarters of the tax now due. At times long queues have assembled, but they have shown exemplary patience. An official with more than 20 years' experience said that the rush to pay the tax was entirely without precedent. The spirit of the people was wonderful, and the response far in excess of what they had dared to hope. After working all Saturday afternoon the office staff had to return on Sunday to straighten up their accounts. Yesterday the rush continued. It was feared at one time that the numbers of new income-tax payers this year would lead to many difficulties, but this has not been the case in Leeds. Eagerness to pay is being shown by all classes.

MANCHESTER In the last week, before and since the first instalments of income-tax become due, well over 40,000 payments have been made in Manchester. It is estimated that there are 300,000 assessments payable at the several Manchester district offices. Yesterday, at 3 o'clock, one hour before the close of business for the day, there was still a long queue of waiting persons at Arkwright House, the Inland Revenue headquarters. A far greater number of people, however, have sent remittances by post. At the headquarter offices every effort is made to send receipts on the day remittances are received, but this has not proved practical in all suburban offices where large remittances have come in in an abundance never before experienced at the beginning of the year.

Good companions From the Director General of the BBC Sir, On behalf of the British Broadcasting Corporation I extend our warmest congratulations to The Times on its remarkable bicentenary. Long may its thunder continue to peal.

ALASDAIR MILNE, Director General, British Broadcasting Corporation, Broadcasting House, W1, January 2.

Calorie count From Mrs M. F. Rowland Sir, One hopes that the Soup Establishments run in 1800 for the relief of the Labouring Poor ("On this day", January 2) served a more nourishing brew than in 1900.

My 1909 edition of Mrs Beeton has the following recipe for "Benevolent Soup, suitable for a soup kitchen, reasonable at any time, average cost 2d per pint": Half an ox cheek, four celery tops, two carrots, four onions, two turnips, one cabbage, a bunch of herbs, one and a half pints lentils, 10 quarts of water. Simmer for four hours.

It would be interesting to know the food value of one pint of this. Yours faithfully, SHEILA ROWLAND, Silver Winds, Woodland Drive, East Horsley, Leatherhead, Surrey.

A slight oversight From Mr Simon Brett Sir, The gentleman in Barry Fantoni's cartoon (January 2) is unable to find any mention of the miners' strike anywhere in the facsimile edition of the 200-year-old Daily Universal Register. What is his explanation for the announcement at the bottom of page three that "there was no business done yesterday at the Coal-Exchange"?

Yours faithfully, SIMON BRET, Frith House, Burpham, Arundel, West Sussex.

BEARDS BANNED IN COMPUTERLAND

At GCHQ it was their union cards; and a hefty doucour as an encouragement to give them up, or a job transfer if they would not. At the Bank Mellie of Iran in London, it was their uncovered heads, and a threat of dismissal if female employees would not conform to current Iranian ideas of decorum in dress. Now the work force at a Vauxhall computer office in Luton is urged likewise to barter away cherished personal attachments for the sake of their jobs. A reshuffle of assets in the proprietorial stratosphere has transferred it to an American company with paternalistic views about how employees should behave. They have been invited to sign new contracts, committing them to a renunciation of lunch time drinking, gossip about salaries, and the wearing of beards.

The ban on beards at least may seem enforceable. The mid-day half-pints and the grumbles about overtime rates could hardly be effectively monitored without extensive lurking and bugging, though no doubt the requirements would sufficiently achieve the desired effect if they made it easier to discard the frankly drunk and those impudently bartering on awkward comparisons between one salary and another. But there is no concealing a beard, except for surgeons and highwaymen. And since a

man's gestures of facial topiary are among the most eloquent aspects of the front that he presents to the world, it can be expected that some employees will be at least as reluctant to be parted from their beards as they might be from their union cards. Some of us would go to any lengths rather than expose our chins to the derision of an unkind world, and its cold breezes.

The edict might be called Victorian if whiskers were not so very conspicuous an aspect of Victorian values. The motives are mysterious. Computers do not immediately present themselves as one of those technologies where a Rasputin would be at risk of being wound inexorably into the machinery - still less so since floppy discs have superceded tapes, which flow less easily with scraps of hair tangled in them. The image of the bearded helmsman at the console might appear to be reassuringly naval; it is a cliché in The Sweeney that it is villains who are bare-faced.

Simple defiance seems the most probable response. The Mellie Bank was simply laughed out of court. A strike over barbering rights would be almost as ridiculous a spectacle as a lock-out over the same issue. Outbursts of facial hair where there were none before would be an almost irresistible gesture of

solidarity. It must be a matter of calculation whether the contractual and labour circumstances create a risk of beardless black-legs being drafted in.

Action under the unfair dismissal regulation might be feasible, and it would be worth considering whether the Sex Discrimination Act cannot be brought into play. Clearly sex discrimination is less obvious in this case than it would be if the rule was that beards had to be worn. But since female employees would not be obliged to shave, while male employees would, a claim of unequal treatment might just be sustainable.

But it is one of those instances where the management are particularly exposed to what is known as "industrial action short of a strike". In this case, not a go-slow so much as a go-hairy. Unless the contracts are imperceptibly specific as to facial landscape, scope for harassment will be wide. The moustache could droop further and further past the corners of the mouth, the sideboards could creep stealthily down the cheek: until they all meet, a beard cannot be definitively said to have come into being. Instead of the desired clean-cut image, the company may find itself in charge of flocks of Dickensian swells in Dundreary. It could even start a fashion.



From luxury yachts to the latest  
in lifebelts, the Boat Show has  
everything to satisfy the sailor's  
desires. Ronald Faux reports

# One mad rush to the sails

For sailing enthusiasts, now is the time for grand dreams. Of course, some hardy souls sail on the teeth of freezing winter spray and others - the lucky ones - steer south for the sun, but most of us have pulled our boats ashore and put them under wraps until the spring. Given that half the pleasure of sailing is in the planning, the London International Boat Show, which opened this week at Earls Court, is more than a showcase for a £300m industry. It is the chance for 250,000 yachtsmen, powerboaters and dreamers to go head-to-head now and January 13 and swarms over a fleet of new boats rethinking their sailing careers.

Old hands sally inland to sit self-consciously on boats beached in the exhibition hall, and praise their vessels virtues to potential buyers. "It always strikes me as odd... the one thing we cannot demonstrate is how well the boat performs. They're a bit like prize salmon stuffed in a showcase", one Earls Court veteran told me.

Sailors torture themselves by thinking always one boat ahead, to the time when means will

stretch to something a bit longer on the waterline, or loftier in the cabin. Racing men turn to cruising and vice versa, power men start to admire the economy and peace of sails. It is a market where demands fluctuate with the regularity of tides, and one that offers a huge variety of shapes and sizes of craft. Many customers may be quite happy with the boat they have got, but are thinking in terms of a new set of sails, improved navigation equipment or a more powerful engine. The objects of their desires are there in abundance at the show.

Other problems may be more prosaic. Mine is to find a new lavatory for my boat after years of fighting with a chemically powered model. I vowed on a change last season after a bumpy boat to windward which the lavatory won.

As I agonize among the pipes and valves other sailing folk will be making their own decisions: signing cheques for up to £500,000 to secure craft that will take them effortlessly around the world, or like me deciding on nautical ablutions. We are all brothers and sisters under the skin.

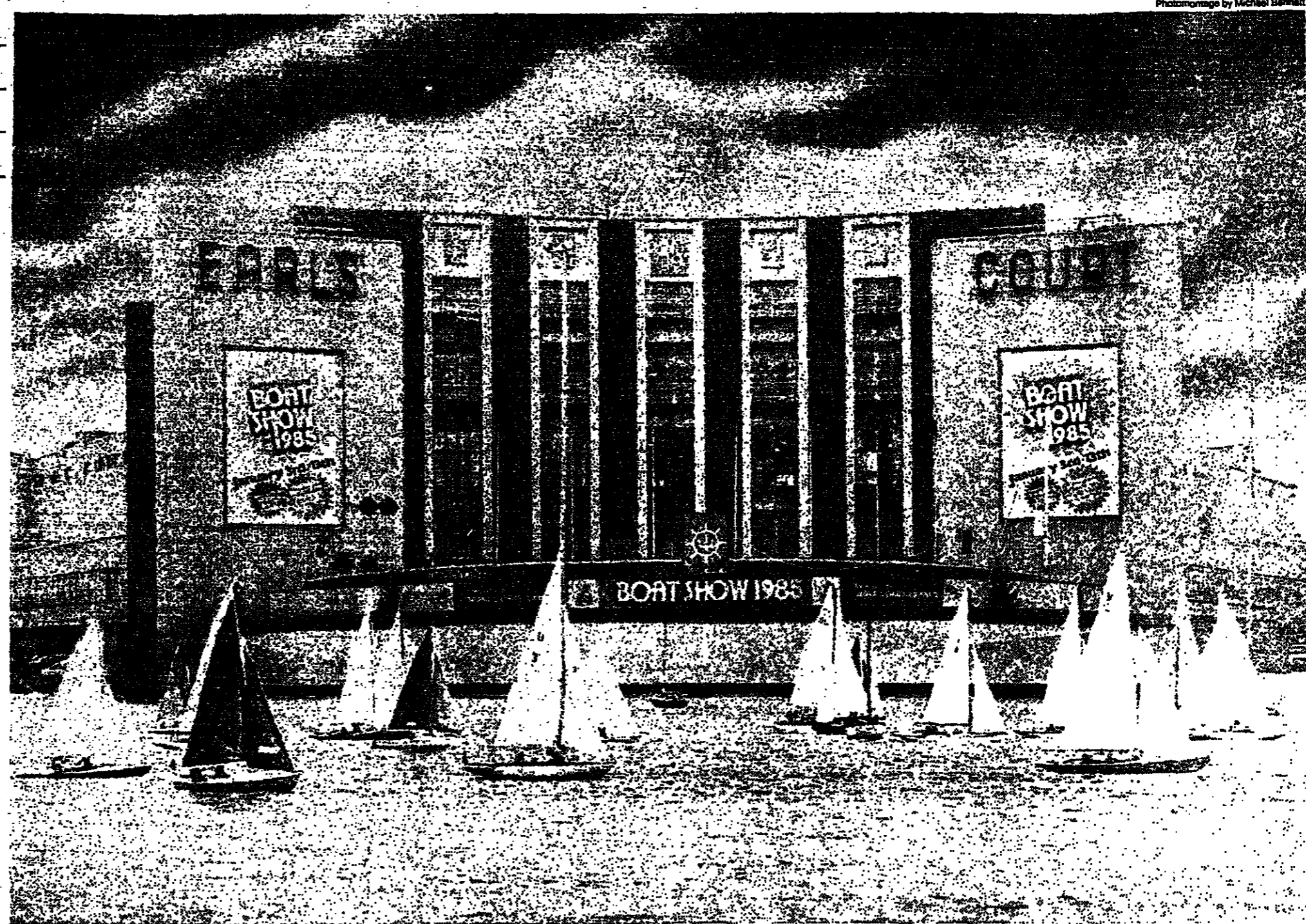
Boat builders' opinions differ about how their fragile industry is settling down in the calmer economic weather. One yard manager declared his operation was now pared down to the most cost-efficient size ready to take on the world, a certainty for a Thatcher award to industry. Others were more inclined to see themselves as ancient mariners clinging to a log and surprised to be still alive. Certainly in the trough of the recession, leading names in the industry changed hands and direction at cash flow - or more particularly ebb - grounded many businesses even when the order books were buoyant. Several names never refloated.

Most are now agreed that the worst is over thanks to a healthy export market, courtesy of the strong dollar, and that the British predilection for pottering about in boats is still a commercially exploitable force. According to the Ship and Boat Builders' National Federation, the number of boats built in the north and south-coast has

increased which in turn has helped stimulate the market for 20 to 30ft boats. The federation found that many potential owners had been put off buying a boat because they could find nowhere convenient to keep it. Neither was the £40 per foot per year mooring charge any incentive. The national register of berths and moorings kept by the federation has helped to ease this pressure and bring more life to the brokerage market as owners commit themselves to buying their new boats and disposing of their old vessels.

Through charterers, Boatilla holiday companies and sailing schemes for youth, the leisure industry is indirectly helping to feed business into the boat yards and the fact that this year's boat show is over subscribed with a waiting list of exhibitors is yet another indication that the industry is turning gradually towards expansion.

Survival in rough seas  
The recent history of Camper and Nicholson's at their Gosport yard exemplifies the hard struggle the British boat building industry has suffered in recent years. Three years ago this famous family name in quality yacht building seemed destined to join the list of recession victims. Mr Anthony Taylor, then the technical director of the Gosport yard, led a management buy-out of the company with three other existing managers and a number of Nicholson's owners to set up Camper and Nicholson's (Yachts) in the very trough of the recession. The company returned to concentrating on what it was best at: building large, customized yachts of high quality. "Thank goodness we did", Mr Taylor now reflects. He is managing director of the business which has on show its proudest production, a 38ft sloop of great elegance and luxury costing some £420,000; nine of them have been sold for export in the last two years. Last month four of the yachts sailed to America, a £2 million convoy that arrived safely. The workforce at the Gosport yard has grown from 64 to 87 producing the "expensive toys" that have become the strongest end of the market. The company is confident of securing two more orders for the 38-footers during the boat show, again to export customers. Mr Taylor admits that the strength of the dollar has helped decisively to secure American orders. "For quality and value for money to them they should be opening up here", he says.



Monohull or multihull? The old argument has risen again to be a popular topic of conversation at this year's Boat Show after the dramatic capsizing of Chay Blyth's trimaran off Cape Horn last November. That multihull enthusiasts have been driven on to the defensive again may seem odd when one admires the multihull cruisers on show at Earls Court, but these are not generally the kind of vessels that give problems. It is the ocean greyhounds out to break records, carrying a critical spread of sail, that most often come to grief. The average cruising multihull has so many clear advantages in terms of living space, speed and stability that the cruising enthusiasts whose

friends turn pale with fright each time their monohull hits to the wind can be excused for asking: "I'm interested, but are they safe?" Their ocean racing record certainly raises a question that the multihull designers are keen to answer. A monohull has the advantage of a deep, heavy keel that automatically returns the hull to the vertical after each gust of wind. It can suffer a total knock-down and will spring back immediately undamaged. But once a racing multihull is forced from its flat platform on the sea surface, perhaps by a combination of wind

waves and sheer speed, an irretrievable capsize is almost unavoidable. The multihull supporters declare that with proper hull design and sensibly sized sails, that point need never be reached even in the wildest weather and there are many examples of successful trans-ocean voyages by catamarans and trimarans to prove the claim. The safest design, though not necessarily the fastest, according to one leading multihull builder, is to ensure that the outer floats of a trimaran are at least 140 and as much as 200 per cent more buoyant than the main hull. With

a well-balanced sail plan it should be impossible for the wind to make such a vessel unstable by driving the lee float under. It is what the architects call a "form stable" vessel with the advantage of being able to travel at up to three times the speed of a monohull. One skipper of a multihull boat said: "We touch 17 knots off the wind without any sense of danger or that things are going to go adrift. A monohull's fastest speed is determined by its waterline length and it would have to be 300ft long before it reached such speeds." A multihull may not be able to point as close to the eye of

the wind as a monohull or turn with such agility, but what the boat loses in distance it makes up for in time. But even when they are being sailed to the limit in severe conditions, the multihulls give their crews as great a sense of security. They have more separately buoyant sections each with its structural integrity unlike a monohull, which in the worst circumstances can founder and fill within minutes. A multihull might capsize or even be holed but at least it stays afloat, their supporters argue. Chay Blyth and his companion spent 19 hours uncomfortable but safe on their upturned trimaran before they were rescued.

## Arguing the toss about a hull

third of the home market in real terms over the last five to seven years. France and Sweden also suffered a similar fall in domestic demand which has also been made up by a wave of exports. Perhaps there has been a quiet rebellion among yachting wives; or could it be that the 700,000 boats of all types and sizes occupying marinas, harbours and estuaries around the British coast represent saturation point of the British market? The numbers suggest

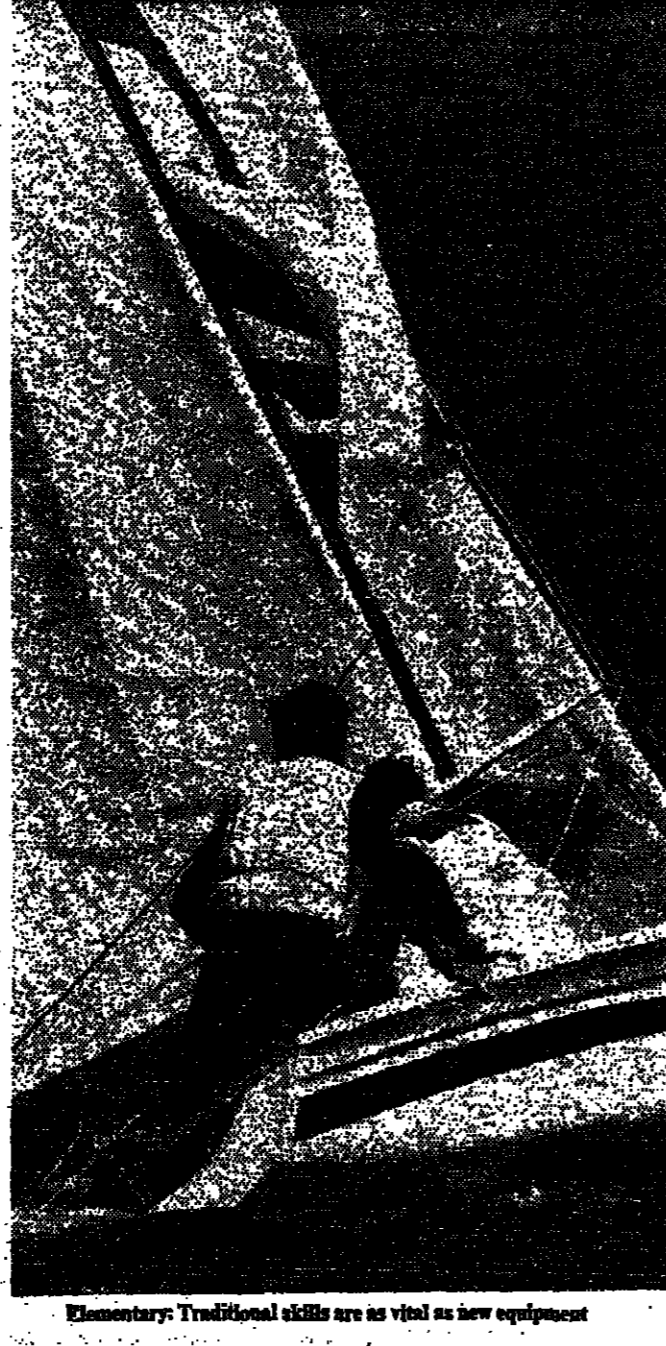
there are more than two million people actively interested in sailing but boats are designed to last. Unlike a car, a yacht that is well-cared for will last 15 or 20 years at least. Worse still from the builder's point of view, owners often become sentimentally attached to a boat and extremely reluctant to change. Sailing in tidal waters remains an unregulated sport - a fact for which most yachtsmen are thankful - and 80 per cent of SBBNF membership is made

up of companies employing fewer than 100 people. This makes the true state of the industry and what trends are developing difficult to pin down with absolute accuracy, but the signs are good. A federation survey showed that 75 per cent of members' companies expect good or fairly good prospects over the next six months and 69 per cent have reached or exceeded their profit forecasts. Finance houses have also confirmed these optimistic trends and they hope that the

market will indeed expand to absorb the greater volume of production. The theme of the show is Britain afloat and dominating the central pool is the spectacular mast manning and window ladder display. There are more than 480 exhibitors with craft ranging from a sailboard used last year by Tim Bairstone to sail round the British coast to a magnificent £430,000 58-footer by Camper and Nicholson's, the largest and most expensive vessel in the show.

## RIGHTS OF PASSAGE

The International Boat Show 1985 is at Earls Court, Warwick Road, London SW5 (885 1234) until Jan 13. It is open Mon-Fri 10am-8pm, Sat-Sun 10am-7pm. Adult £3, child under 14 £1.50. The catalogue (£1.50) contains plans of the three exhibition areas and details of all the exhibitors. There will be demonstrations by the Royal Navy Display Team at noon, 3pm and 5.45pm each day and the Yachtsman of the Year award will be announced in a poolside ceremony on Tues at 12.45pm.



Elementary: Traditional skills are as vital as new equipment

## Gadgets galore

A Victorian sailing manual gave the following instruction on changing a headsail. First, it declared, send ten hands forward. Ten hands? Few modern cruising yachts count their available hands in double numbers although time has changed the average sail plan. We rarely see the billowing maroones and complex jiggers of sail that powered many Victorian vessels and required a host of hands to control. Probably the one piece of equipment that has made these ten hands redundant is the self-furling headsail. There are 16 companies producing reefing and furling systems at the show for any size of sailing craft. The technique is simply to winch in the jib sheet which rotates the entire forestay around which the jib is furlled. Simply stop winching when the jib is as large as you require. To shorten sail you just reverse the procedure.

Racing men tend to reject this soft option, arguing that this forestay that has a sail wrapped around it cannot be as efficient as an unencumbered wire from which a sail is set in the traditional way. A conventional forestay will also keep a straighter line between mast head and deck, which makes for more efficient sailing. The difference is probably between a razor and a breadknife cutting into the wind, and for the cruising enthusiast, convenience outweighs any marginal improvements in performance. The other innovation that would have astonished the Victorians is the satellite navigation system and the way it is able to pinpoint latitude and longitude with such accuracy. A set has been introduced this year for the yachting market that costs less than £1,000. Another system is claimed to be the first sat/nav system programmed to take tidal information into account. There are compasses galore, some from a company that has found a lucrative sideline by designing a model that points Magnetic east. Twenty-five manufacturers of autopilots have their products on show. There are anchors and alarms, the latest electronic gadgetry for measuring the speed of the wind, the depth of the water and distance covered and some ingenious devices for dealing with the oldest marine emergency, "Man overboard". A "life loop" has been devised by a sailing doctor that makes lifting a drenched and barely conscious body out of the water easier. There is also a "hot belt" offered as a useful precaution for winter sailing. This holds a chemical compound that releases four hours worth of constant 60°F warmth. A "hot jacket" version will provide heat for up to 16 hours.

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TRAVEL 1

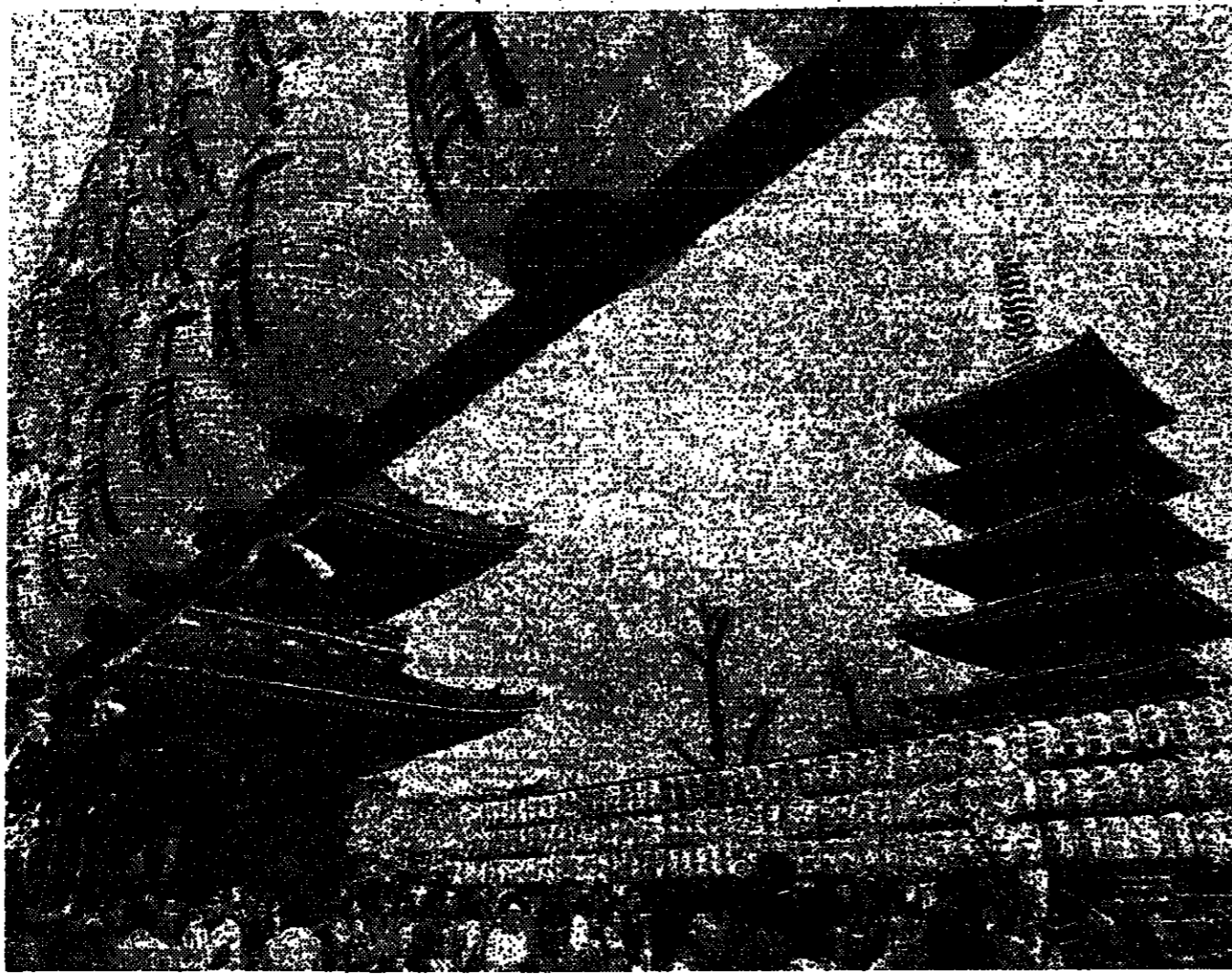
Hong Kong: A package bursting at the seams

When you are getting on a bit, as I am (28) the policemen start looking younger. I know, but this is ridiculous: the several dozen pairs of sleek-headed Chinese twins patrolling Hong Kong's Kai Tak airport appear to have an average age of 14. Worse than that, they are all toting hideously efficient-looking sub-machine-guns. Still, shoulders back, lad, we're still in charge here. And there's a picture of Her Majesty in the guard room to prove it, even if it is very small and slightly askew.

Swooping into the metropolis along an elevated motorway, it seems as if the Colony has put out the flags for us. Small smalls flutter in the breeze from thousands of balconies in the dilapidated tenements, many shrouded in bamboo scaffolding, that stand in bizarre juxtaposition with some of the New York skyscrapers outside Manhattan.

Hong Kong's streets are full of people going somewhere, and not wasting any time about it. They all look freshly steam-cleaned, and they wear the loose fashions with the assurance of a race well used to baggy work-wear. It leaves the European visitor feeling like a lumbering, sweaty monster.

The city's crazy contrasts do not end with the skyline. Creaking, wheeling junks share the harbour with jetties; a shopkeeper clicks and clacks his



Splendours of the Orient: Lanterns line the approach to Tokyo's Akihasa Kannon Temple

way through his surms on a wooden abacus next door to a store bulging with electronic computers and calculators, and just round the corner from some of the Colony's ritziest hotels in Tsim Sha Tsui on Kowloon-side, a fisherman crouches in the gutter, cracking open oysters the size of frisbees with a metal spike bashed through a crude wooden handle. From Victoria Peak, 1300ft above the skyscrapers, the QE2 is a toy boat in the harbour and

you can hardly hear yourself think as the Japanese tourists loom round after round of Canon fire. It's worth an ear-popping 45-degree haul in the Peak Tram for the eye-popping view - if you pick the right day. Victoria, where the funicular starts, is the Beverly Hills of Hong Kong island, with Mercedes and BMWs crowding the driveways of the kind of individual houses rich people cannot always be prevented from building for themselves.

Grandest folly of all, however, is the Tiger Balm Gardens, created by the two brothers who invented the celebrated cure-all in an effort to persuade the Fates to grant them sons. Just where living space is at a premium, acres of plaster and rock have been carved into grotesque dragons, lions, serpents and birds, then painted in dazzling primary colours. It's

a psychedelic Disneyland. The powers-that-be obviously didn't like it, either: the brothers died without heirs.

Some of that Tiger Balm fortune would have worked wonders down in Aberdeen, in the south-west of the island, where tourists can take a sampan trip to inspect at close quarters the hand-to-mouth existence of some 12,000 people who live on boats moored in the harbour.

Families squat on deck among chests piled high with their possessions. Fish flap in the wind as they dry for sale ashore, and a dog fidgets in an open makeshift kennel slung over a boat's side. Fishing is the main source of cash, and the little boys get some practice with nets held out for comers from passers-by.

Further out from shore, the

Jumbo floating restaurant provides fare modest enough by the standards of hotels like the Shangri La or the Lee Gardens, and boasts the most lugubrious double eat I've ever seen; two stone-faced ladies who take turns to pick out mournful ditties on mandolins. There is more melancholia out back, where fish languish in tanks on a kind of piscine Death Row, keeping together and studiously avoiding the eye of the customer invited to select his own dinner.

The night is young. On to Wanchai, the waterfront pleasure zone once so popular with Uncle Sam's sailors. Unfortunately, Suzie Wong doesn't live here anymore, and hasn't done so for many years. There are a few tatty discos, where the casual punter can sample the dreary local San Miguel brew and watch the expats get hogwimperin' drunk; and some topleas bars where you are Richard Gere until you decline to buy the "special drink" ... after which you suddenly become Woody Allen on a bad night.

Tony Partington

Jetsava's two-week three-centre Far East contrast holiday features Hong Kong, Bangkok and Pattaya. Prices start at £275. Jetsava, Sussex House, East Grinstead, RH19 1LD (0342 311155).

Next Week: A quick boat to China

Faraway

Long-distance holidays have never been more affordable. Whether your taste in travel is for sun-kissed beaches, or for exotic sights and unforgettable memories, these pages, we hope, will prompt your imagination and fill in some of the facts.

For less than £300, for example, you can spend two weeks in the Far East, visiting three countries. Tony Partington describes such a tour in a three-part series, starting this week in Hong Kong. Also reporting from the Far East, Caroline Moorehead dis-

Fast train from Tokyo to Buddhas and blossom

Like no other country, Japan is in love with statistics. You cannot escape them; they are everywhere, in hotel lobbies, on television, in the newspapers, in tourist offices. It is impossible, sooner or later, not to learn that 58.9 per cent of Japanese households have encyclopaedias, that Japanese women fill 9.8 per cent of their days housekeeping and that teenage boys spend three times as much of their time going to snack bars than visiting hot spring spas.

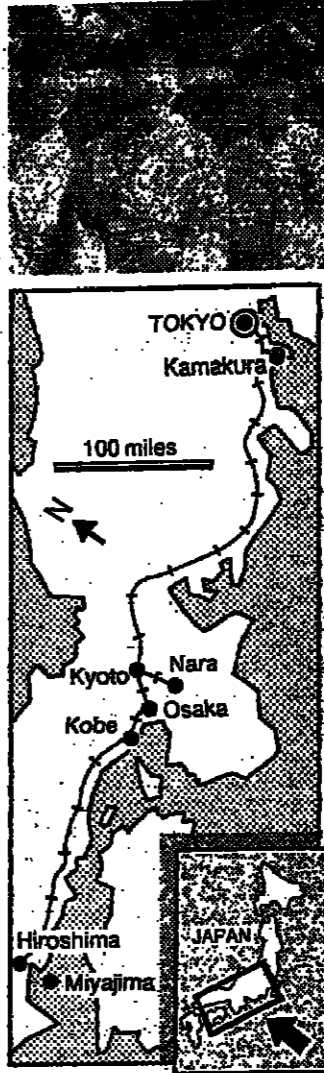
A 12-year-old boy called Tokuya in Hiroshima told me that he knew he was ranked 105th among all 12-year-olds in the prefecture. Next year, when he goes to high school, he will be told where he ranks for the whole of Japan. (He also knows, every day, what every other child in Japan is having for lunch: from the top of Hokkaido to the tip of Kyushu the school menu is standardized.)

Hardly surprising, then, given such profound respect for accuracy, to find that Japan, for the foreign traveller, works. It is mainly a question of keeping your nerve. Trains run on time (legend has it that if a bullet train, a famed Shinkansen, is an hour late you get your money back; half an hour overdue and the station master is waiting on the platform, bowing). Their carriages are numbered one to 16 and draw up at indicated spots, so that travellers know precisely where to stand.

Stations have computers, manageable by computer illiterates, for public use, giving time tables for the whole of Japan. Telephones connect instantly, and there is something called Japan Travel Phone, where by dialling 106 anywhere in Japan you find, at the other end of the line an English speaking person ready to help.

The Underground is cheerful, brightly lit, with at least some signs in Roman lettering and full of students, keen to practise the English and French they learn from junior school. (Beware only Tokyo Station in rush hour: imagine three layers, some 60 platforms, suburban, underground and bullet train; imagine Waterloo, Victoria, Paddington, Kings Cross and Euston all in one, with human waves moving fast and purposefully in different directions, every man wearing a blue suit and a white shirt. I know: I got lost there.)

Food is easy, whether on trains, where one continual meal carries on throughout the day and much of the night, with teams of waitresses pushing trolleys with drinks and bento boxes, wicker or patterned paper containers with exquisitely prepared and laid out meals, from raw fish and rice to fried-chicken and sandwiches, or in restaurants, with every dish, in convincing plastic models, on display in the street. The result of this excessive efficiency is that Japan is the ideal country for the business



traveller who wishes for culture too. Because there are so many trains - a bullet leaves Tokyo for Osaka, 552km away, about every 20 minutes, and takes less than three hours - and because much of Japanese life takes place along the coast, the vast commercial centres are in immediate reach of some of the most interesting sites in the country.

From Tokyo (one hour, by suburban train) there is Kamakura on the edge of Sagami Bay, central stronghold of the warrior nobility in the 12th century after Minamoto Yoritomo decided to distance himself from the decadence of court life in Kyoto. Kamakura has 19 shrines and 65 temples, including one to children who have died, with small stone Buddhas in densely packed rows on the hillside, draped in their remembered toys.

Osaka and Kobe (iron, steel, shipbuilding, chemicals and textiles) are less than half an hour from Kyoto, Japan's Florence, for 1,100 years the home of the Emperor and thus the centre of the arts. Kyoto is charming (and well mapped) walks, along the old canal (the "Philosopher's Way") and weaving among the temples. Beyond Kyoto, another half an hour by train, is Nara, again an ancient capital, which passes for a small town by Japanese standards (population: 310,000), contains the largest Buddha in Japan (52ft) and was strongly influenced by Chinese Tang art.

From Hiroshima, there is the shrine island of Miyajima (ferry 25 minutes), dedicated to the daughters of the Shinto wind god Susanoo and from which dogs were banned and neither births nor deaths allowed to take place. (The island is covered instead with deer, of an aggressive book-eating variety.)

More than in many countries, tourism is deliberately seasonal. April means cherry blossom, November, maples, September in Kyoto is Sumo, when 250 kilo wrestlers with pigtails and purple loin cloths crouch like toads in a sandy arena before hurling themselves at their opponents. October in Kyoto is No theatre (highly stylized tragic heroic topics), and so on.

One other way of seeing Japan is to experiment with the different kinds of hotel. At the top end are those of immense grandeur, comfort and expense like the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo; below, in decreasing order of all three, come the big chains (the Tokyo, or the Holiday Inn, which has an exceptionally nice hotel in Kyoto), the ryokan (traditional Japanese inns, with tatami matted rooms, serving as living room by day and bedroom by night) and their more modest counterparts the minshuku or family guest houses.

A relatively recent invention is the "business" hotel (not to be confused with the capsule hotel, in which guests are pushed in and out of box-like chambers, one above another, like station lockers). Business hotels are usually near the centre of cities, respectable, English speaking, highly efficient, but not glamorous. The rooms are small. They cost about a third of the price of luxury hotels.

Just over 10 years ago a survivor of the Hiroshima bomb called Zen Matsutani, a graduate from Harvard and Heidelberg, started an organization called the Pan Pacific Fund. Along with its wider goals of promoting goodwill and contacts between Japan and the West, the fund runs the Host-Family Association which arranges for foreign visitors - preferably with some more lasting interest in the country than passing curiosity - to stay (free) with Japanese families. By driving up and down the country and knocking on doors of the more prosperous houses (only the very well off, in a country famous for its small, cramped houses, conceivably have room for visitors) Zen Matsutani now has 1,000 families, all over Japan, willing to take foreigners from one night up to three months.

Whatever its size, every hotel room seems to have a television set. In the large cities, there is an English language channel showing old Gregory Peck war movies. Far more enjoyable however are the Japanese soap operas that make up a large part of every evening's viewing; swashbuckling tales of samurai bravura, three generation family sagas, domestic tragedies set inside geisha houses; and vignettes of the young facing the crises of modern industrial life in a Tokyo skyscraper, heady stuff, before which Dallas and Dynasty grow pale and weedy.

Caroline Moorehead

JAL flies daily to Tokyo: approximately 16 hours and £1,656 ordinary return (Apax £745-£769). For travel inside Japan, a Rail Pass, which can be bought only abroad, provides unlimited travel for about £105 for seven days. The Japan National Tourist Organization, with every form of information has offices all over Japan and a branch in London (167 Regent Street, London W1) For information about Zen Matsutani's Host Family Association, write to: 1-33 Nakamachi, Naka-ku, Hiroshima 730.

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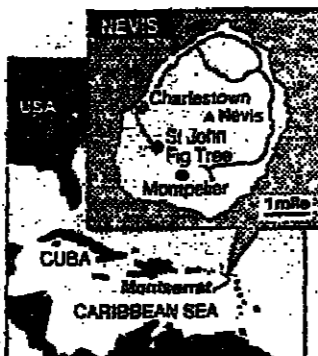
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# places . . .

covers that solo travelling is a simple affair in ultra-organized Japan, where business and pleasure can be easily combined. On the other side of the world, Richard Williams soaks up the winter sun and tastes the passion fruit of the Caribbean island of

Nevis, while Rob Neillands has some tips on how to find bargain holidays. Finally, on page 14, Alex McWhirter in his regular Fare Deals column has good news for anyone contemplating a trip round the world.

## Quiet ways and easy customs on Nevis



than at Montpelier Plantation Inn, where James and Celia Milnes Gaskell preside over an establishment which, among its kind, can know few peers. Six hundred feet up in the surrounding hills of Nevis Peak, looking down over the tiny capital of Charleston to St Kitts, is where, in 1964, the property-hunting Milnes Gaskell was taken by a lady taxi-driver to see the ruined sugar-mill of the Montpelier plantation and its ancillary buildings; two years later he and his wife were entertaining their first guests as a full-scale restoration project began to create the main building, with its dining and bar areas, and the bungalows in which the majority of the 16 rooms are located.



Nelson: Nuptials on Nevis

A couple of days on Nevis made me wonder why I ever got rid of my Morris Minor. Comfort, user-friendly, made from sound materials to a rational design with no hidden gizmos or unnecessary ornaments to get in the way of sheer serviceability, the island and the car share qualities which make the early 1950s seem a pinnacle of civilization from which the wider world has since slipped back with gathering speed. Like Alex Issigonis's marvel of practical styling, Nevis proceeds at a rate within human control. In the island's case, that is mostly at walking pace. At only 36 square miles, most of the significant journeys - to school, church or workplace - can be covered on foot, with the effect that Nevisians are in the habit of greeting all they meet, brother and stranger alike, with a slow lifting of the hand. It is an easy custom to acquire, and making the conscious effort to drop it on return to Antigua, Barbados or London seems like the first step back into barbarism.

Christopher Columbus spied this dot in the Eastern Caribbean in 1493, on his second voyage of discovery. Its central feature, a 3,200ft peak, led him to name it after the snow-capped Las Nieves of his homeland; the island's nearest neighbour he called after his patron, St Christopher, and St Kitts, as it became known, was to form with Nevis and a third island, Anguilla, a federation which lasted until Anguilla opted out in the late 1960s.

Sugar cultivation brought Nevis its measure of prosperity during the days of slavery, but the last cane was cut in 1957 and Nevis's crop is now sea island cotton, an industry under development with the enthusiastic backing of the government and some support from abroad. As almost everywhere in the Caribbean, of course, the problem is to persuade people to return to a way of life on the land.

Tourism is vital to such a place and Nevis is well aware of

the properties that make it different. It was encouraging to hear the Minister for Agriculture and Tourism say that any new hotels built in addition to the eight already on the island will be restricted to a maximum height of two stories. Nevis, he affirmed, does not want high-rise or dense development. "We are a quiet island, and we want people to appreciate us for what we are."

Nowhere are the benefits of this creed more readily apparent

Twenty years on, an informal demeanour fronts a highly organized concern bringing its own bread and marmalade to the breakfast table alongside home-grown sweet apples and passion-fruit, with its own swimming-pool and tennis court, and a shuttle service down to the thin, white-gold strand of Pinney's Beach, where the hotel's facilities for fishing and water-skiing are at hand.

Best of all is the garden in which the bungalows are dispersed, bursting and aglow with varieties of life to which Celia Milnes Gaskell proves an enthusiastic guide. Those two squabbling over the passion-fruit, for example, one squat and black with a deep red gulf, the other trim in grey and yellow, are a Greater Antillean bullfinch and a Bananaquit. And when that heady gust of thick, sweet perfume? The hibiscus, perhaps, or frangipani? No, hidden behind the mute finery of its neighbours, the unprepossessing white Tasmannian Christmas bush is sending its important signal, like a plain girl drenched in something by Dior. At night, next to the small lamps in the lawns illuminating the pathways, fat brown toads squat facing the light as if to worship some elemental deity: up or stroke their dry, knobby backs, and their chests, puffed out with indignation.

Sadly, I could not stay long enough to tell whether the dinner of roast suckling pig and passion-fruit pavlova was typical, but to anyone who does not mind being a quarter of an hour from the beach and does not want to spend a holiday competing in the high-fashion stakes, the Montpelier Plantation Inn can be warmly recommended. Directly on the beach on the other side of the island, closer to Nevis's tiny airport, the Nisbet Plantation Inn offers as its



Palms and peace: Coconut grove leading down to the Caribbean shore at the Nisbet Plantation Inn on Nevis

Each of the airy, well-appointed rooms is equipped with a paraffin lamp, although Britain's gift to the island of a new generator has reduced the frequency of power cuts. The welcoming information for guests at Montpelier includes perhaps the most charming item featured in such a document: "Noises in the night are caused by bats scurrying across the ceiling inside the roof. They are harmless and do not enter the room." Sound advice, although Celia Milnes Gaskell confesses that she sometimes has a nightmare in which a ceiling collapses to cover a sleeping guest in bat droppings.

Close by is the site of the plantation's great house, where Nelson entered into marriage with Fanny Nisbet 198 years ago down the road, a modest but delightful Nelson museum includes an invoice presented to Lady Hamilton for the provision of music "chez Lord Nelson" in London, and a clock stopped at the moment the Queen entered the museum during her visit to the island in 1966.

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Directly on the beach on the other side of the island, closer to Nevis's tiny airport, the Nisbet Plantation Inn offers as its

prime asset - a lovely coconut grove stretching a couple of hundred yards down to the sea. The hotel's 20 cottages are set among the tall palms, sufficiently isolated to provide complete tranquillity. This is the place to write that best-seller, or simply to restore oneself, fuelled by cocktails and dinner taken in the elegant rooms of the compact main house.

Having made the effort to get to Nevis, there seems no good reason to leave such a rational, courteous society. That, clearly, was the experience of the Milnes Gaskells, and those who have been brought up there seem to feel the same way. "I read about the other parts of the world, about the movements" one man of mature years told me, "and I am happy to live in this peace and quiet all the days of my life".

Richard Williams

## Small price to be paid for happier holidays

To find a holiday that really is a bargain there are two basic rules: first, shop around, and second, read the small print in the brochures. Most holiday-makers look at very few brochures before selecting their holiday; but when the annual cost can easily exceed £1,000 for two weeks, an evening spent comparing prices and value must be a good idea. Step One begins at the travel agent, after you have decided

the type of holiday you want and the possible location. A complete list of ABTA (Association of British Travel Agents) tour operators can be found in a twice-yearly publication, *The Holiday Guide*, which any high street travel agent should have. (Non-ABTA operators can be found through their advertisements in the national press and in special interest magazines.) You may need to visit two or three agents to obtain a representative selection of the brochures available.

Having got hold of the brochures, the next step is a quiet evening working out the actual cost of the holiday, after including all the extras, and deducting any concessions that may apply. (The staff at the travel agency cannot possibly know every combination open to the holidaymaker, so you have to do this yourself.) This exercise also serves to concentrate the mind most wonder-

fully on what you actually want on holiday. The price boldly splashed across the top of the brochure page is, of course, the lowest available. Extras might include a single room supplement, charges for a balcony, a room with a view, a bath, half or full board, a local airport supplement, a high season surcharge. . . This is also the time to consider such apparently extraneous factors as the departure airport and the flight time. Driving half-way across England, or having to stay overnight at the airport hotel to catch a 7am flight, can significantly increase the total cost of the holiday.

On the other hand, there is a vast range of concessions available for the coming season. Children's discounts, ranging from 10 per cent off the basic cost up to an absolutely free holiday, are widely available, but here again, read the small print carefully.

Many operators are still offering "No-surcharge Guarantees", or restricting them to a fixed percentage. Thomas Cook are offering free car hire on a number of their holidays this summer, as do Meon Villas, who have car-inclusive holidays available in Spain, Malta and Portugal. And free watersports, tennis and golf are offered by a number of operators.

Other savings include group reductions and, depending on the operator, a "group" can be as small as eight people. The 1985 holiday season promises to be an interesting time in the travel trade. According to the most up-to-date information, prices are set to rise overall by up to 20 per cent, but informed opinion also has it that such increases are unlikely to hold. There will be discounting and cut-price offers, and anyway, such an increase in special interest magazines, some operators have even reduced their prices to certain destinations this year and, as always, there are bargains to be had if you shop around.

Rob Neillands

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### TRAVEL NOTES

I travelled to Nevis by British Airways 747 from London to Antigua and by the light aircraft of Caribbean Aviation from Antigua to Nevis. Kuoni offer holidays at Montpelier Plantation Inn from

£295-£298 for seven nights) and at Nisbet Plantation Inn (£747-£1,000). There is also a two-centre holiday, with seven nights at Montpelier and seven at the excellent Hawksbill Beach Hotel, Antigua, which nicely contrast with and complement each other, while unanimously offering calm and quiet (£299-£1,355). Take US dollars, to which the Eastern Caribbean dollar is pegged.

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TRAVEL

Charter for globetrotters



The latest fares to Australia from British Airways and Qantas are good news for globetrotters. For the first time, travellers heading down under can upgrade their simple return tickets to round-the-world status at minimal cost.

Alex McWhirter discovers that a world tour need not cost the earth

a matter of personal preference. But remember that the baggage allowance is a generous 140lb per person if you travel via North America - a godsend if you are taking presents to friends or relatives - compared to a miserly 44lb via the Far East.

if bought separately this trans-Tasman flight can cost as much as £400. The best solution is an off-the-peg RTW fare to include both countries. For about £1,050 London's Reho Travel can offer a fixed routing covering London-Washington-Los Angeles-San Francisco-Honolulu-Auckland-Sydney-Melbourne-Kuala Lumpur-London. The same company is also marketing a simpler routing covering Los Angeles, Auckland and Melbourne, returning via Kuala Lumpur for under £1,000.

Of course, you may choose to fly round the world and miss out Australasia, crossing the Pacific via the northern routing, which is cheaper still. For travel next February or March, Asia/Pacific Travel offer a route covering Hong Kong, Seoul, Tokyo, Honolulu and Los Angeles for just over £800.

Those "off the peg" RTW fares marketed by specialist travel agents continue as before. Although more expensive, they offer more extra destinations than BA/Quantas. For example, Tokyo or Bombay; and in North America: Los Angeles, San Francisco or Vancouver. Sideltrips may be added at extra cost, for example from Singapore to Penang or Bali, or from Los Angeles to the Grand Canyon or Las Vegas. Whether you travel east or westbound is

Table with columns: Date of travel, Season, Destinations, Sydney/Melbourne, Brisbane. Rows include Jan to Jun, Jul to Sep, Oct to Dec, Dec to Dec.

Those "off the peg" RTW fares marketed by specialist travel agents continue as before. Although more expensive, they offer more extra destinations than BA/Quantas.

TAKE A BLAKE FROM ROUTINE.

Advertisement for Blake's cruises. Text: 'This year, take a relaxing different holiday - boating on the charming Norfolk Broads, the English Canals & Rivers, or the Scottish Lochs. Or push the boat out a bit further - to the waterways of France, Ireland or Holland. There's sailing too, in Denmark, Côte d'Azur, the Greek Islands, or Yugoslavia. And whichever Blake you choose, every boat comes fully equipped, down to the last teapot.' Includes a form for booking and contact information for Blake's.

Silver salute to 100 years

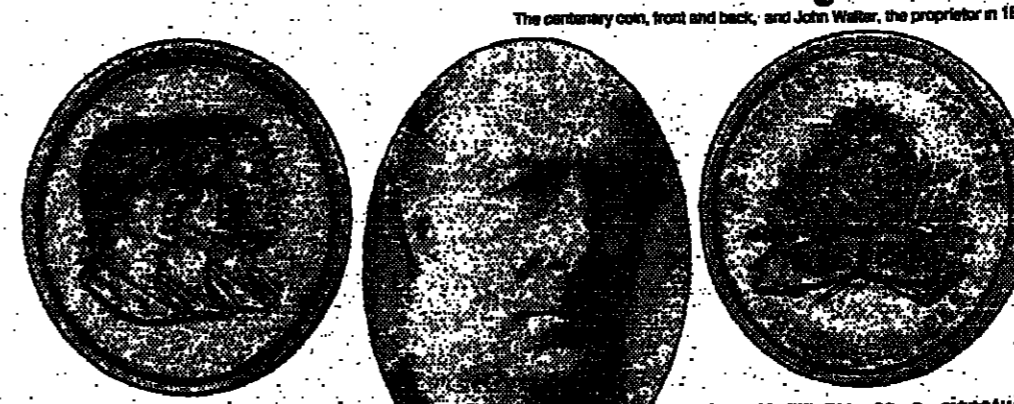
The centenary of The Times on January 1, 1885, was a quiet affair. But although it received barely a mention in the news columns, it did not pass unnoticed by the proprietor, John Walter.

Walter was the third generation of his family to own The Times. In true patriarchal fashion he organized a reception at Bearwood, the family home in Berkshire, at which each member of staff was presented with a silver commemorative medalion. It was a kind gesture and well received, for in return the members of the staff "companionship" presented him with an illuminated document, a "Vote of Congratulation on the Centenary of The Times and our thanks for the Commemorative Medal".

The medal is a handsome and heavy silver piece - it weighs a good two ounces - yet curiously little is known of it. On the front side, or obverse, the heads of the three John Walters face sternly to the right, the first (1739-1812), on the left, the second, who was the second son of the founder (1776-1847), in the centre; while the third and proprietor (1818-1894) is to the back and furthest right.

With the long festive fortnight only just over, most wine drinkers' ideal New Year gift is probably a case of mineral water and a jumbo pack of Alka Seltzer rather than any more wine. January is a good time to restock the cellar, however, especially as several wine merchants are holding bin-end sales this month. The Malmalson Wine Club, for instance, is holding a three-day cash and carry sale, beginning on Thursday, when 200 assorted lines, including mature top-flight burgundy and claret going back to the 1967 vintage, will be on sale at prices ranging from £1.25 to £20 a bottle. Thursday is actually reserved for Malmalson members, but anyone can join before the sale. The annual subscription is £5. Contact the Malmalson Wine Club, 28 Midland Road, London NW1, for further details.

COLLECTING



On the reverse of the medal is the famous clock from the old building, used as in the paper, as the symbol of The Times. The hands are set at twenty-three-and-a-half minutes past one, a mystery time when, it seems, day or night nothing happened in the daily routine of the paper! Below is the name filling an open book - THE TIMES - a name "which being a monosyllabic, bids defiance to corruptors and mutilators of the language". The book rests on two others, symbolic of "Times Past" and "Times Future". Above the clock the legend reads CENTENARY CELEBRATION while below is BEARWOOD 1885.

In January, 1935, the events of 50 years earlier were recalled in the house journal, when there was one member of the senior staff still serving, a Mr. E. Spenceley, whose name had been on the scroll, albeit at the very bottom! The house journal confirmed that the medals have the unusual name of the company that issued them,

STRONGHARM, as a signature below the triple busts; it added that they were issued for every serving member of the staff and that "the mould in which they had been cast had been ordered to be destroyed so that, with the exception of those presented to the British Museum and the Guildhall Museum for their numismatic collections, only members of The Times should possess them".

John Walter's scroll contained 377 signatures, so allowing for a few absences, the probable mintage would have been about 400. The medals

DRINK

A case study of the bin-ends

In addition, there are dozens of cases of port, claret, burgundy, champagne, Alsace and Rhône wines on offer. Mature claret and burgundy go back to the 1964 vintage and, if it could afford it, I should be quite happy to indulge in a case of Palmer '61, a magnificent wine and without doubt one of the best 1961s, for £2,400 a case. That's about £100 more than the current auction price. I shouldn't mind a magnum case of 70 Trotanoy either - one of the Moueix family's famous Pomerols, priced at £600 - or a case of Krug '76 for £300, or even a case of '67 Latour for £400. Those with money to spare should contact Corney & Barrow, 12 Helmet Row, London EC1.

Avery's of Bristol are also holding a monster mixed-case, bin-end sale this month with 22 different cases on offer, including some exciting New World selections. I particularly liked the sound of the New Zealand mixed case, priced at just £48. It features Denis Irwin's fine 1981 Pinot Noir from his north island Poverty Bay estate. At the moment Avery's are offering a mixed case that includes Tyrnell's excellent '82 Vat 47 Chardonnay and Rothbury's '78 Hunter Valley Semillon for just £60. For old-world wine lovers there is a useful Bristol-bottled burgundy case, mainly from Remouissenet, and a "Six of the Best from Bordeaux", offering six bottles of '61 and '66 Chateau L'Arros, a St Emilion premier grand cru. Contact Avery's at 7 Park Street, Bristol, for further information.

Those who want to keep the festivities going and cannot wait

Tamers of Shrewsbury's new vintage Pinot Noir Bourgogne Rouge from Jean Germain in Meursault. This red burgundy, a bargain buy at just £3.73 (Tamers, 26 Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury, Shropshire), has a classic pale garnet colour, plus a wonderfully fragrant nose and a delicate, yet classic, soft-plummy and liquorice-like Pinot Noir taste. Burns Night tipplers are probably looking for something to complement the haggis; champi tatters an' neeps; La Vignerone (105 Old Brompton Road, London SW7) have the ideal vinous solution in their '83 Vin de Pays - the Syrah de l'Ardeche, whose full red colour and bust strong, spicy, peppery flavour and smoky finish should stand up to the haggis with ease.

Jane MacQuitty

Advertisement for Stefan Batory from Tilbury Mediterranean Cruise 7 March 1985 from £114. Regular Monthly Cruises to Canada April/October 1985 from £368. Includes contact information for shipping agents.

Holidays and Villas

EUROVISTA WORLD TRAVEL advertisement. Lists various holiday packages and prices for destinations like Athens, Copenhagen, Frankfurt, Madrid, Nice, Paris, Vienna, Zurich. Includes contact information and a 'FLY NOW - PAY LATER' offer.

Villa Seekers advertisement. 'NO SURCHARGE GUARANTEE'. Offers holidays in Algarve, Madeira, Canary Islands, British Isles, Costa del Sol, Mallorca, Sicily, Tenerife, Florida. Includes contact information for villa agents.

Take the children FREE to France... and Spain, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, Austria & Denmark. Sunsites advertisement. Includes contact information for Sunsites Ltd.

CYCLING FOR SOFTIES and FOR SHOW-OFFS. Advertisement for cycling holidays and services. Includes contact information for cycling agents.

Heathrow-Spain Bargains! Advertisement for flights to Spain. Lists various flight options and prices. Includes contact information for travel agents.

Italy advertisement. 'Bargain Flights'. Offers flights to various Italian destinations. Includes contact information for travel agents.

Greek Islands Club advertisement. Offers holidays in Greece. Includes contact information for the club.

Phone 'n' fly advertisement. Offers flights to various destinations. Includes contact information for the service.

ALGARVE advertisement. Offers holidays in Algarve. Includes contact information for travel agents.

TUSCANY, ITALY advertisement. Offers holidays in Tuscany. Includes contact information for travel agents.

Italy advertisement. 'Discounted Fares'. Offers discounted flights to various Italian destinations. Includes contact information for travel agents.

ARABIAN ADVENTURES - FOR THE NOMAD IN YOU. Advertisement for Arabian adventures. Includes contact information for travel agents.

DISCERNING TRAVELLER? Advertisement for discerning travellers. Includes contact information for travel agents.

ALGARVE advertisement. Offers holidays in Algarve. Includes contact information for travel agents.

AUSTRALIA FROM £499 advertisement. Offers holidays to Australia. Includes contact information for travel agents.

Italy advertisement. 'CORFU & PAXOS'. Offers holidays in Corfu and Paxos. Includes contact information for travel agents.

WESTERN ALGARVE advertisement. Offers holidays in Western Algarve. Includes contact information for travel agents.

ALGARVE advertisement. Offers holidays in Algarve. Includes contact information for travel agents.

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SUMMER '85 advertisement. Offers holidays for summer 1985. Includes contact information for travel agents.

Italy advertisement. 'NEW LOW FARES WORLDWIDE!'. Offers low fares to various destinations. Includes contact information for travel agents.

WESTERN ALGARVE advertisement. Offers holidays in Western Algarve. Includes contact information for travel agents.

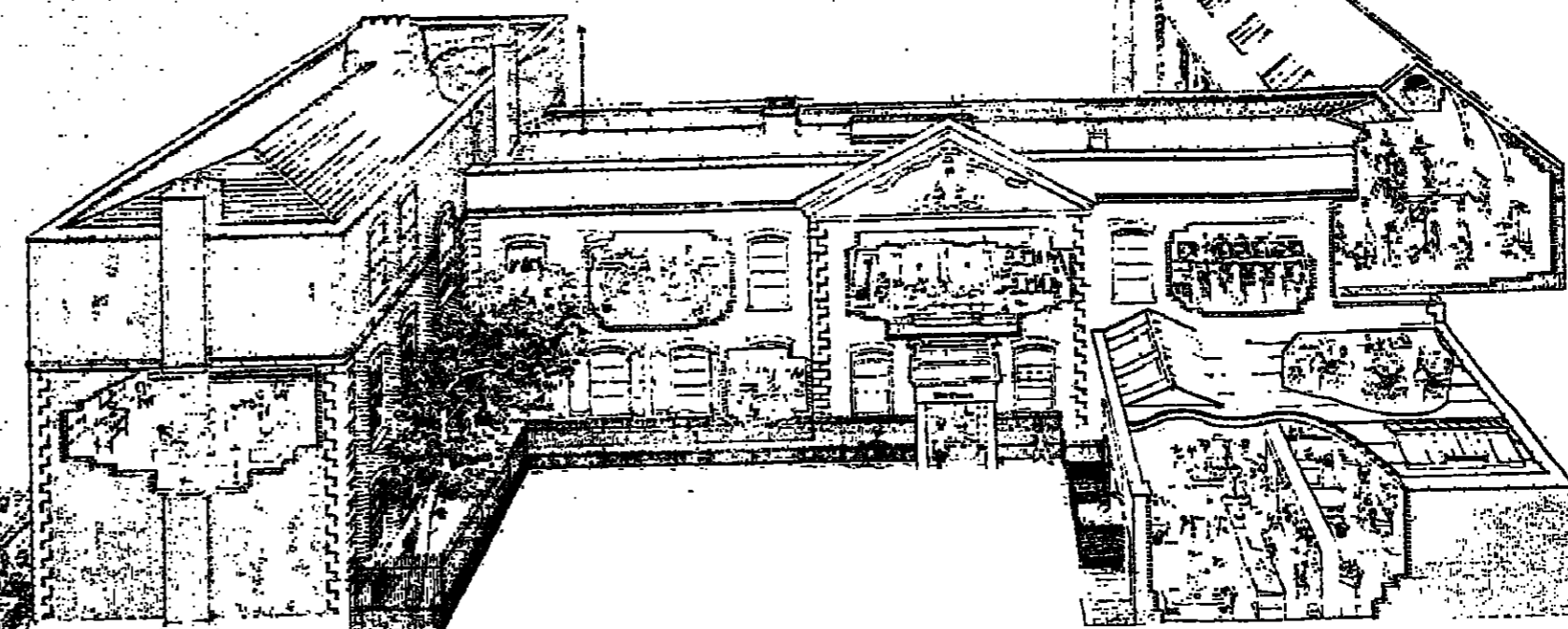
ALGARVE advertisement. Offers holidays in Algarve. Includes contact information for travel agents.

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VALUES

Beryl Downing reviews the gifts which celebrate the anniversary of the newspaper

Presenting The Times



Printing House Square as it was, drawn by Peter Sullivan

In 1985 there will be no present like The Times. To mark our bicentenary year, ten commemorative items have been chosen in the hope of interesting and pleasing regular readers, historians and collectors all over the world.

The selection shown here is the only commemorative collection made with the approval and cooperation of The Times and with access to its extensive collection of pictures and documents.

So that everyone who cares to can share in our celebrations, the price range is wide. For less than £2.50 you can acquire a handsome enamelled box made in the Georgian tradition.

Maybe looking back 200 years is not your style. In that case put down roots for the future by planting a Times rose - simply spend 20p any weekday on history in the making.

ad if you need an excuse for a party, join us in a glass of Blinger bubbly - Times special cuvée. The toast is the next 20 years.

Pages from our past Search as they may, collectors are unlikely ever to find an original copy of the first issue of The Daily Universal Register printed in last Wednesday's pages of The Times. Only one copy is known to exist outside our own archives and that is in the British Newspaper Library.

Hot news to hold a comforting cup Times mugs have been popular presents for many years, even though at one time they were made of ceramic.

There are four mugs (right) in the set, made this time to fine one china with an elegantly fluted shape, and each has a different masthead and an extract about a famous event.

The first commemorates the launch of The Daily Universal Register. This masthead is named after the date 9, 1786 when the Royal arms were used and on January 1, 1788 the title of the paper changed to The Times or Daily Universal Register.

The extract on the second mug is from the announcement in June 22, 1815, of the Duke of Wellington's victory at the battle of Waterloo.

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The stamp of authority Perhaps I am prejudiced, but I think the stamp book (above) sponsored by The Times and to be issued by the Post Office on Tuesday is one of the most attractive ever produced.

The fan shown above commemorates one of The Times' most amazing scoops when its flamboyant reporter Henri de Blowitz revealed the secret text of the Treaty of Berlin in 1878.

The stamp book will be on sale in post offices throughout the country on January 8 and the first day cover for the booklet will also be available from most post offices or from The British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, for 15p.

SALE SHELF STORE SHelves

Behind the scenes at The Thunderer

Each facsimile is accompanied by Philip Howard's outspoken and objective commentary, and he is at pains to dispel the legends that The Times has always been respectable and that it was better written and better printed in "the good old days".

There may be those who expect any history of a newspaper written by its literary editor and published by an associate company, to be obsequious and self-congratulatory, but they are certainly not regular readers of Philip Howard, whose look at the past 200 years of The Times will appeal to collectors of wit and wisdom as much as to students of social and world history.

His book The Thunderer Out is a collection of 70 facsimile pages of The Times, researched and selected from the archives by Jack Lonsdale, librarian of the newspaper from 1958-1982.

The first half records famous and infamous events such as the guillotining of Louis XVI, the case of Jack the Ripper, and the Battle of Balaclava; the second half shows examples of the sections of the paper which have made it irreplaceable to its devotees - the letters page, the crossword, the personal columns.



fourth mug. The Times was the only London newspaper to be produced from its own office on the first morning of the strike.

More Times' treats are planned for later in the year. A new rose will be named in the spring and available to the public in the autumn; and a Times champagne will be on sale in the spring.

Produced by Bollinger, The Times special cuvée will be in a bottle decorated with masthead past and present, but the bottle itself will be traditional - as Cyril Ray points out in his book Bollinger, the company has always believed that the contents matter far more than any fancy bottle.

In this case the contents are dry and delicious. Our special cuvée is non-vintage, but as Cyril Ray writes, in this case it indicates the special care taken in the blending from different vineyards and vintages which "reflect the ideas, ideals and character of the people who make it".

The cost per case for The Times special cuvée cannot be decided until after the Budget, but the price will be as attractive as the wine and an order form will appear in May.

The Times rose is already an award winner - chosen the best of the new breeds in 1982 and winning the President's International trophy given by the Royal National Rose Society, Asbury Stephenson, The Times gardening correspondent, who has been searching for this prize specimen for some time, saw the ideal bloom at the growers John Mattock, who had been breeding it for three years.

"It is a magnificent red, between scarlet and crimson, it doesn't go blue, which is terribly important and the petals don't spot. It has good healthy foliage and has been disease resistant during the four years of its development. It is the best new rose I have seen."

China charms of the gilded lion goblet

A superb 19th-century painting called Waiting for The Times by Benjamin Robert Haydon has been chosen for the centrepiece of a commemorative plate (below) by Wedgwood.

The original hangs in the executive offices in Gray's Inn Road. The combination of The Times and Wedgwood is a natural choice for both are survivors of the centuries.

The positioning of the various rooms was meticulously researched and drawn by Peter Sullivan, who also designed the rest of the chart. Even the smallest detail is accurate, down to the bicycle parked outside the entrance. It is a type in production in 1872, whose wheels were rather more alike in size than those of its predecessor, the penny-farthing.

The wallchart, 30in x 40in, will be available from January 15 for £3.75 (£1.25 p&p) from Times Books at the address given above.

Little boxes with pretty big ideas

A 19th-century picture of the first Times building in Printing House Square has been chosen to decorate one of the two commemorative boxes produced by the enamel specialists Halcyon Days.

The old King's Printing House, which was acquired by John Walter in 1784, was in a street called Printing House Yard - a name he rapidly changed to the more fashionable "Square".

Today a modern office block covers the site, but a painting of the original building hangs in the executive offices in Gray's Inn Road. The artists and exact date are unknown - the nearest guess is "about 1850" - but it was certainly not painted before 1841 as it shows the Bogle stone above the door.

This stone takes its name from Alan Bogle who sued The Times in 1840 for exposing an international forgery racket and saving many people from ruin. Bogle was awarded one farthing damages and the newspaper had to bear the very heavy costs of the case.

City bankers, however, dug into their coffers and raised £2,700, which the proprietor, John Walter II, refused for himself and instead founded two scholarships at Christ's Hospital and the City of London schools.

Two memorial tablets were put up to commemorate "the sense of obligation conferred by the proprietors of The Times on the commercial world" by exposing this "most remarkable and extensively fraudulent conspiracy ever brought to light in the mercantile world". One is still at Lloyds, the other was moved from Printing House Square to the ground floor entrance of Gray's Inn Road.

With this in mind, £245 (post free in the United Kingdom) for the rectangular box, 2 7/8in long in an edition of only 200, and £64 for the circular box, 2 7/8in diameter, (£1.90 p & p) could be blue chip investments. Both are available from Halcyon Days, 14 Brook Street, London W1.

DEAR CHAMPNEYS WISH WE WERE THERE

Champneys at Tring

China charms of the gilded lion goblet

also been involved in marking momentous occasions. In the 1830s they made a number of commemorative pieces marking important exhibitions opened by Queen Victoria and some of their earliest pieces were a series of election mugs made for Shropshire MPs.

In April they will be producing a handsome goblet (below) decorated with the masthead of The Times reproduced for the first time in colour - a gold lion, white unicorn, with red, blue, pink and green for the ribbons, rose and leaves.

David Driver, head of design at The Times, did considerable research in order to choose colours which would be historically accurate. He and Anne Piggott, Times Newspapers archivist, have been closely involved with all the commemorative items and he has been responsible for the selection of all the decorative material and its application on to the plate, mugs, goblet and champagne bottles. He also designed the

stamp book in collaboration with Phillip Howard, who wrote the text.

The Coalport goblet will be available in a limited edition of 750 at £49.95 (£2.50 p&p) from G. S. P. Promotions, 2a Dolphin Square, Tring, Herts. A special offer order form will appear in The Times in April.

Champneys, where the solanum guarantees a tan and English is always spoken. We'll help you look and feel better too. You'll have the time of your life - from leisure, sport, beauty, relaxation, dancing, swimming, painting and much more besides.

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**ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL**  
**QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL**  
**PURCELL ROOM**  
**WIGMORE HALL**  
**ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE**  
**BBC LUNCHTIME CONCERTS**

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### London Symphony Orchestra

Thurs 31 Jan at 7.45 pm  
 Please note change of programme  
**Brahms: 'Tragic' Overture**  
**Beethoven: Piano Concerto No 1**  
**Brahms: Symphony No 4**  
**Edward Dwyer cond. Sally Ann Bottomley piano**  
**Tickets: £3.50 to £3.00 Barbican Hall**  
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Charting the course of new stars and old favourites

Madonna Like A Virgin (Sire 926 157-1)
Malcolm McLaren Fans (Charisma MMDL 2)
Hoodoo Gurus Stoneage Romeos (Demon Fiend 32)

If the American media machine has its way, 1985 will be marked by the astronomical success of a new star called Madonna Ciccone.

Really, all Fans needs to bring it fully to life is its own motion picture, because the story of a roughish GI with wives in America and Nagasaki doesn't quite work as a libretto.

Ciccone was born in Detroit, one of nine children of an Italian family.

Madonna: Squarely aimed at impressionable young men

Madonna's ambitions will be realized; her second album and its attendant single, "Like A Virgin", are topping the American charts.

The new album is a high-grade Madonna update, funky sleek and packed with potential hits.

Pop predictions are pointless but fun anyway. Mine is that 1985 will see the acceptance of Oz pop on a grand scale.

Max Bell

Treasure for the record keepers

Many of the superficial piquancy of this concert performance derives from the knowledge that it seems to have been the last recording made by Rollins before he embarked on the longest of his several sabbaticals.

And still they come, in a tidal wave without end, the reissues and the new discoveries that restore the giant canvas of jazz.

Rollins: Superlative technique and a wilful imagination

The saxophone tone is full and firm, and the improvisations - whether at the jet-propelled tempo of "Oleo", the slow glide of "Stay as Sweet as You Are" or, best of all, the bouncy, untroubled medium pace of several others - blend the allusive, discursive nature of his expression with the purity of a single melodic that dominates.

The latest and most vivid dab of freshly uncovered paint falls outside the scope of volume one, but must be issued of a place in the successor, which will bring the music up to date.



Drummer and diva: Art Blakey on marvellous form in his mid-sixties, and Madonna, sleek and funky at 24

decidedly bel canto clarinet of Kenny Davern on The Very Thought of You, recorded at the Bankworkers' Stables Theatre at Wavendon in Buckinghamshire.

Those inclined towards the mainstream will also relish the reissue of Bob Brookmeyer's Blue Hot and Cold, in which the quartet setting with Jimmy Rowles, America's Brian Lemon, at the piano provides the leader with perhaps his best opportunity to show the extraordinary range of his approach to the valve-trumpet.

Terence Blanchard, a young trumpeter of outstanding technique and mental agility, has perhaps the hardest job in contemporary jazz.

Elsewhere on this crisply recorded session - congratulations go to two new recruits, the pianist Mutgrew Miller and the bassist Lonnie Plaxico, and to the quietly maturing tenor saxophonist, Jean Toussaint.

FAMILY LIFE

Red revival for the smaller squirrels

Until last week, I don't believe I had ever seen a red squirrel. My own son had certainly never seen one and it was with mild curiosity that he accompanied me to London Zoo in search of one.

Big red squirrel populations still exist in parts of Scotland to form the vanguard for Red Squirrel Watch which were taken from a forest in Elie, Fife, where they are so numerous and are causing such damage to trees that they are being removed under licence - a polite term for being killed.

It seems red squirrel populations have always been subject to rises and falls, depending on the severity of winters, the availability of food, and on the various diseases to which they are prone.

I asked David Moltu, the young Norwegian zoologist in charge of Red Squirrel Watch, how a mere company of 10 could hope to survive in the competitive environment of Regent's Park.

"The first thing we had to do was acclimatize them to their new environment. They have been here, safe in an enclosure all summer. They had to become accustomed to people and to learn to use the hoppers (trays for feeding) and drey boxes for nesting, resting and sleeping."

Once released, the red squirrels would then easily find the hoppers and drey boxes placed at strategic points in trees around the zoo.

David Moltu checks the progress of the squirrels every day, using a radio-tracking aerial device and receiver (each squirrel has been fitted with a collar and radio transmitter weighing only 5 per cent of its body weight).

What were their chances of breeding? "Very good - this is about the time when they are ready to mate and two pairs have been seen in very encouraging situations."

Judy Froshaug
Now is an ideal time to look for squirrels. Red squirrels do not hibernate, so you have a good chance of seeing them.

IN THE GARDEN

Armchair choice for growers

Like so many gardeners, I get almost as much pleasure from planning next year's garden as from actually carrying out the operations. In the depth of winter, when gardening is a bit of a chore, how much nicer to be able to sit in the warmth of a sitting room, going over the catalogues for the next year.

Good seed firms have a reputation to consider and would never intentionally send out sub-standard products. Seed failures sometimes get through the system but firms are usually happy to put mistakes right.

Dobbies Seeds were the first firm to send me a catalogue this winter; they are purely mail order. A large, well illustrated catalogue makes the ordering and selection of seeds easy.

I'm always interested in new forms and each year there is much to choose from. This year I am impatient to see the newimpatiens, Blitz, varieties.

Blitz Violet is a new FI hybrid with a burgundy violet colouring, a compact plant which is always producing flowers. Good for sun or shade.

Suttons Seeds have produced an excellent catalogue full of good plants.

Among the new vegetable varieties are Carrot Nandor; this has a small cylindrical which is useful for pulling them

to help with raising tender forms: Begonia Glamour Girl and Petunia Express, both F1s come already rooted in plugs of compost ready for potting or boxing on.

Geraniums, or pelargoniums, are well represented. These are a great favourite of mine and some of those in this catalogue are worth a second look: Cherry Diamond is a cherry red but I find it does not last through the season; Gypsy is good, a warm pink that lasts well; Mustang and Picasso have passed the novice stage and are ready for the garden.

Blazing Star is a popular house plant at this time of year, as it can be in flower from November right through the winter.

Blazing Star is a popular house plant at this time of year, as it can be in flower from November right through the winter.

EATING OUT

Tempt the tired palate with some new leaves

Now that the season of excess has passed, the season of penitence begins. For all those who overdid it at Christmas, and who may have to eat out this week, we look at three varied venues for that new start to the year.

Those wishing to turn over a new leaf after the Christmas binge often do so literally by seeking out vegetarian meals. Unfortunately, a high proportion of the vegetarian restaurants in this country, with the honourable exception of the Southern Indian/Gujarati type, tend to be joyless, spartan affairs with rather limited menus in the out-of-door, brown rice and stuffed potato mode.

I had high hopes of The Greenhouse, situated beneath The Drill Hall theatre and discussion room, since it is connected with a top quality sandwich bar, Zak's, which is doing great business in nearby Goodge Street.

The limited Christmas menu did little to inspire affection either. Two hot main courses only were offered - a rather dry pine-needle with herbs stuffing, potatoes and sprouts (£2.25), which was doused in a rather inapposite apple and rhubarb sauce, and a slightly more successful leek layer, baked with crumble topping.

It was rather difficult to assess the puddings, since the main offering was a single, micro-waved mince pie topped with cream - a fruit-packed trifle was a better alternative but still lacked flavour.

As Japanese restaurants are increasingly popular with those either dieting or just easing back on the carbohydrates, I thought at least one should be included in this week's column.

For those who still hanker after a touch of indulgence with their new regime, Melange offers an inventive menu, nicely balanced in both lightness and price.

Melange, 59 Endell Street, London WC2 (540 8077). Open: Mon-Fri noon-3.30pm; Mon-Sat 5.30-11.30pm.

Greenhouse Vegetarian Restaurant, 15 Chancery Street, London WC1 (637 8038). Open: Tues-Fri 10am-10pm; Mon 10am-6pm and (women only) 7-9pm; Sat 4-9pm.

Kitchen Yakitori, 12 Lancashire Court, New Bond Street, London W1 (829 9984). Open: Mon-Fri noon-2.30pm (last orders); Mon-Sat 6-8.30pm (last orders).

Melange, 59 Endell Street, London WC2 (540 8077). Open: Mon-Fri noon-3.30pm; Mon-Sat 5.30-11.30pm.

Blooming: Cyclamen persicum which flowers through the winter

EATING OUT

For lightweight lunches or snacks, they have a section called assiettes de vitesses, on which you might find ratatouille with noodles (£2.50), oeufs brouillés (scrambled eggs with smoked salmon, £2.90), onion tart, vegetarian salad (£2.60) or excellent home-made sausages with duchesse potatoes and apple sauce (£2.90).

More substantial dishes are also offered, either individually or as part of a good value, two-course set lunch at £6.90. Here you might find the delicious le nid panaché (£1.60), a salad of smoked salmon and quail's eggs in a pleasant lemon and olive oil dressing.

Delicious puddings - profiteroles with bananas, apple tart with sabayon, mousse yin yang (light and dark chocolate) - may tempt you from the straight and narrow. But then New Year resolutions don't last long...

Stan Hey



Melange: Drawing by Priscilla Masley

THE INCREDIBLE SEED CATALOGUE
Major gardeners reference book of plants in colour, 212 pages, 1000 illustrations, over 3000 varieties. Fully informative videos and how to plant, raise, amend and fertilise. Quantity available strictly limited. Shows you FREE copy, posted November. Write: Lane, Thompson & Mangan, Dept 23, 100, High Street, London SE1 8JQ. Tel 24 hrs (071) 57217.

TELEVISION

Forsyth's light hearts and football nets

"I think one of the things that is going to sustain the British film industry in the future is rooting films in things British, not in an amorphous mid-Atlantic. And maybe that means being self-consciously provincial for a while."



Fantasy and fun: New team member, Dorothy (Dee Hepburn), with an adoring Gregory (Gordon John Sinclair) in attendance

handing of his cast and his insights into the growing pains of today's teenagers. It is a quiet, unassuming picture that does not clamour for attention but consistently hits its target.

LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST: The BBC2 Shakespeare cycle reaches its penultimate play, the comedy about a king's decision to spend three years in abstinence.

PROGRAMME CHOICE at 21 million a man the most expensive - test in the Royal Navy. BBC1, Mon, 7.40-8.10pm.

THE DRAGON HAS TWO TONGUES: A 13-part history of the Welsh presented by two people with very different points of view.

Also recommended The Little Princess (1939): Shirley Temple, in her first colour film, as Frances Hodgson Burnett's Mary Crewe, forced to work as a servant while daddy is away at the Boer War (Channel 4, today, 1.30-3.15pm).

LYTTON'S DIARY: Drama series by Jay Connolly about a Fleet Street gossip columnist played by Peter Bowles. In the first episode he is trying to assemble the dirt on an Australian tycoon.

BRIDGE

Such stuff as nightmares are made on

In 1937 Ely Culbertson, accompanied by his wife Josephine, Helen Sobel and Charles C. Vogelhofer, set forth for Budapest to defend the World Championship which the United States had won in New York in 1935.

points. However deflated the Americans may have been, the result was no fluke. The Austrian team of Van Bludhorne, Herbert Jellinek, Von Meissel and Schneider, captained by the mercurial Paul Stern were all magnificent card players.

and returned the Iron Cross that he had won for gallantry in the First World War to the German High Command.

When international bridge resumed after the war, only one of the group, Schneider, remained. His genius was sufficient to inspire the Austrians to come second in the European Championships in 1951 and 1957, but when he retired Austria relapsed into a middle-of-the-table status.

WAGNER: Five-hour version of Tony Palmer's immense, controversial biography of the composer with Richard Burton in the title role, Vanessa Redgrave as Cosima and Gemma Craven as Minna and a supporting cast that can boast Laurence Olivier, John Gielgud and Ralph Richardson.

CHESS

Knights that guard the games to come

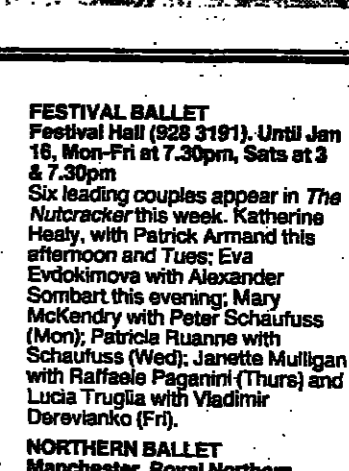
If 1984 was an encouraging year for British chess - and it certainly was - then 1985 promises to be just as good. Certainly no one who was in Brighton last month for the British sub-zonal tournament would deny that the future of the game in this country is in very good hands.

DANCE

Jewelled colours and myths

The first major exhibition of Marc Chagall's paintings in this country since 1948 opens at the Royal Academy in London on Friday. A retrospective, it includes early work ("Bella with White Collar" [right] was painted in 1917) and recent canvases.

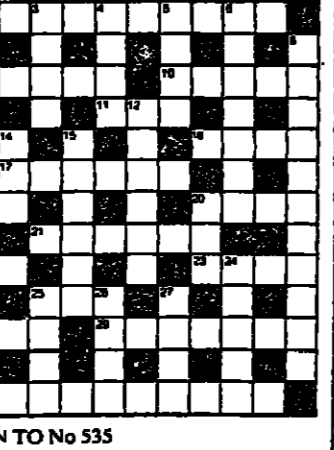
Michael Young



CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 536)

Prizes of the Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, January 10, 1985. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC9N 9YT. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, January 12, 1985.

ACROSS: 1 Churchill family tree (11)



SOLUTION TO No 535 ACROSS: 1 Choker 5 Unsafe 8 Awn 9 Nazism 10 Feeble 11 Myth 12 Antipoon 14 Recast 15 Carve 19 Timebomb 22 Like 24 Refuel 26 Craven 26 Ell 27 Stupid 28 Evenly

PRIZE JUMBO SOLUTION NEXT SATURDAY

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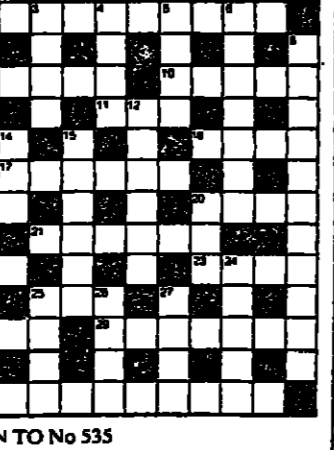
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THE WEEK

Radio

THE WOV SHOW: Unpredictable humor from the... of Lee Combs, Steve Frost, Mark Elliot and Mark Arden.

WAR AND THE MODERN WRITER: Six programmes in which Michael Barber examines the poetry...

BREAKFAST WITH BRUCE: The Scottish disc jockey Ken Bruce starts the awesome task of...

WINNIE HOLDEN'S ANGEL: The Monday Play, by Tony Foyles set against the miners' strike of 1928.



End of the road: A police escort for miners back at work after the 1926 strike, which forms the background to the Monday Play on Radio 4

Sport

Gallimore as her parents. Radio 4, Mon, 8.15-9.45pm.

ONLY BY WOMEN: Alastair Cooke continues his series on female achievements in American popular music...

SCRUM DOWN: England's much charged Rugby Union team take on Romania at Twickenham this afternoon.

POT BLACK: The television snooker competition is back for its sixteenth season on Tues when the 1978 champion, Doug Mountjoy of Wales...

DOUBLE TOPS: Eric Bristow, world champion and top seed, is among 32 players from 18 countries chasing prize money of £40,000 in...

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

Covent Garden, London WC2 (240 1066) Tonight, Mon and Fri at 7pm Die Zauberflöte is revived at Covent Garden, conducted by Richard Hickox...

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC1 (836 3161) The two remaining performances of Tchaikovsky's Mazepa on Tues and Thurs at 7pm should not be missed...

OPERA NORTH Grand Theatre, New Briggate, Leeds (0532 446971/455351) Tonight and Mon the company's new Magic Flute, directed by Graham Vick...

WELSH THREEPENNY OPERA Parc and Dore Hall, Treorchy, Mid Glamorgan (0443 773112) Tonight at 7.30pm

SCOTTISH OPERA The Royal, Glasgow (041 331 1234) Scottish Opera start up again in Glasgow this week with a new production by John Miller of Richard Strauss's Capriccio on Wed and Jan 12 at 7.15pm.



Rigoletto roles: John Rawnsley (left) and Arthur Davies in Jonathan Miller's production for English National Opera

FIGARO IN CROYDON Croydon Warehouse Theatre, 62 Dingwall Road, Croydon (680 4060) Tony Britton and Nicholas Broadhurst of the National Theatre's Guys and Dolls, have set up a workshop to explore the effects of applying the techniques of contemporary theatre to Mozart's Marriage of Figaro.

CONCERTS

MICHELE CAMPANELLA Today, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (835 2141)

The celebrated pianist, Michele Campanella, returns to play Mozart's Sonata No 17, Beethoven's Sonata Op 31 No 3, Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition and, unexpectedly, Clementi's Sonata Op 7 No 3.

MARCELO KAVATH Today, 7.30pm, Fuzess Room, South Bank, London SE1 (228 3191, credit cards 228 8800) Marcelo Kavath plays a considerable variety of guitar pieces, from Dowland's Labyrinth to Krieger's Filomata, from Ponce's Fugue on the Folies d'Espagne to Brouwer's Piazzola Trio.

CORSI, KIMBER Tomorrow, 7.30pm, Fuzess Room Another virtuoso bag is offered by Cecilia Corsi (guitar) and Angus Kimber (saxophone) with David Mason at the piano. This includes Carr's Dance Pieces, Bridger's Golden Hair, Rameau's Mitridate, Populinea Crescenda and Beethoven's Variations and Fugue Op 10, Theme by David Op 93.

KONSTANZE EICHENDORF Tomorrow, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall Elizabeth Hill, soprano, sings London SE1 (228 3191, credit cards 228 8800) A programme of solo songs is offered by Konstanze Eichendorff, beginning with Brahms's first Piano Sonata in C major, Op 10, ending with Beethoven's last in C major, Op 111. In between come Bach's Tocata BWV 912 and some Mozart Variations.

HALLE/HANDFORD Tomorrow, 7.30pm, Free Trade Hall, Manchester (061 234 1712) Richard Simpson's account of the Mozart Oboe Concerto with the Hallé Orchestra under Maurice Handford is sandwiched between Tippett's Concerto for Double String Orchestra and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No 6 'Pathétique'.

RAGLAN HANDEL Mon, 7pm, St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (222 1061) Conducted by Nicholas Kraemer the Raglan Baroque Players and the Raglan Baroque Singers, with many soloists, perform Handel's L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato.

TROMBONE, HARP/SICHIORD Mon, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall Trombone and harp soloists do not often come together, but Christian and Jakob Lindberg play on them such morsels as Cesare's La Hilaronza (1821), Rabe's Besta (1882), Frescobaldi's Garzone IV (1625) and Beethoven's Sequenza V (1968).

INSTRUMENTAL PANLEY Tues, 7.30pm, St John's The Panley of Instruments performs Praetorius's Dances from Terpsichore, Farina's Capriccio Stravagante and pieces from Simpson's Taffel-Consort of 1621 besides works by Copland, Ferrabossio and Johnson.

ATHERTON, POWKE Wed, 7.30pm, Colston Hall, Liverpool (052-708 3789) David Atherton conducts the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic in two slightly unusual pieces, Tchaikovsky's Hamlet and Prokofiev's Symphony No 5. These are separated by Philip Fowke, (piano) playing Rachmaninov's Paganini Rhapsody.

BUGAJ IN BOURNEMOUTH Wed, 7.30pm, Winter Gardens, Exeter Road, Bournemouth (0202 256649) Beethoven's Symphony No 7 and Lutoslawski's Livre pour Orchestra are conducted by Tamas Bugaj and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra also accompanied by Antonio Merello in Liszt's Cello Concerto No 1.

ENO/HANDLEY Wed, 7.30pm, Usher Hall, Latham Road, Edinburgh (031-228 1155) The Scottish National Orchestra is conducted by Vernon Handley in Berlioz's Carnival Overture, Bizet's L'Arlesienne Suite No 1, Saint-Saëns's Cello Concerto No 1 (Paul Tortelier, soloist) and Rachmaninov's Symphonic Dances.

VARDI, STURROCK Fri, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall Emanuel Vardi plays viola sonatas by Mendelssohn and Brahms, Felix's Opus Popularis Espagnole, the London premiere of Barab's Duo and his own Paraphrase on The Beguine Blue Danzab, Kathryn Sturrock is at the piano.

RADU LUPU Fri, 7.45pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall Radu Lupu, the celebrated pianist, performs Beethoven's Sonatas Opp 109, 110 and Schumann's Fantasy Op 17.

THEATRE

Christopher Warman sets the scene for the London International Mime Festival

Barnstormers home to roost

Footsbarn Travelling Theatre Company is little known in this country, yet it is probably Britain's most important theatrical group after the National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company, according to Joe Seelig, director of the eighth London International Mime Festival, which begins on Thursday.

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Seelig describes the company as "barnstorming and very vigorous theatre. It is not mime in its main sense, but visual theatre of the highest quality."

The festival, the largest of its kind in the world, emphasises the British contribution to mime, which incorporates circus and visual theatre as well. Other contributions from this country include a new show by David Glass, created in collaboration with the cartoonist Ralph Steadman, called The Shrinking Man; Nola Rae, the female clown and mime artist; and the Trestle Theatre Company.

Among the international shows is one by a new company, Ra Ra Zoo, pictured right, and the British debut of an Australian group, Ent'Acte, and from France, Compagnie de L'Oiseau Mouché, whose members are all mentally handicapped.

Despite the international contributions, Seelig has deliberately concentrated on British performers. "A few years ago there were almost no British mime performers, and this festival acknowledges the emergence of strong groups here," he says. "There is still a feeling in Britain that mime is obscure and inaccessible. That is not so, and it is important for British groups that they are shown. They are as good as any in the world."

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that performed to great acclaim in this country three years ago. Dave Cree (top) practised his juggling skills with the now disbanded Amazing Mandibles before joining Ra Ra Zoo, and See Bradley (left) is on loan from Peekie Saackenberg, a company of buskers. The company make their London debut at the Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill, London SW11 (223 8413) on Jan 18, 19 and 20 at 8pm.

CONCERTS

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The celebrated pianist, Michele Campanella, returns to play Mozart's Sonata No 17, Beethoven's Sonata Op 31 No 3, Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition and, unexpectedly, Clementi's Sonata Op 7 No 3.

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RAGLAN HANDEL Mon, 7pm, St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (222 1061) Conducted by Nicholas Kraemer the Raglan Baroque Players and the Raglan Baroque Singers, with many soloists, perform Handel's L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato.

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ENO/HANDLEY Wed, 7.30pm, Usher Hall, Latham Road, Edinburgh (031-228 1155) The Scottish National Orchestra is conducted by Vernon Handley in Berlioz's Carnival Overture, Bizet's L'Arlesienne Suite No 1, Saint-Saëns's Cello Concerto No 1 (Paul Tortelier, soloist) and Rachmaninov's Symphonic Dances.

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In Preview

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WASTE: John Barton directs a new RSC production of Harley Granville-Barker's play concerning a politician whose career is ruined by a scandal of adultery. Maria Arkell, Sylvia Coleridge, Judi Dench, Eileen Page, Ilda Swinton, Bruce Alexander, Tony Church, Mark Dignam, James Fleet, Oliver Ford Davies, Charles Kay, David Kilkic, Daniel Massey. This play was considered too strong for the public in 1907, and was only licensed for public performance in 1936. The Pit (628 6795/638 8891). Previews Mon-Fri and Jan 12, 14 at 7.30pm; press night Jan 15 at 7pm. In repertory.

IN THE PENAL COLONY: The Pip Simmons Theatre Group return from two years working on the Continent with a coproduction with The Micky Theatre of Amsterdam. Franz Kafka's "essay on the arbitrary nature of human justice" is the basis for a performance featuring "The Bellatrix" a mechanical sculpture by Alex Mero. The device is used in an attempt to destroy a tree which is protected by a pane of glass. Pip Simmons directs Chris Jordan, Sheila Burnett, Trevor Stuart, Alex Mavro and Mieke Visser. ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (830 3647). Previews Tues, Wed at 8pm; press night Thurs at 7pm. Until Jan 26, Tues-Sun at 8pm.

A CRY WITH SEWN LIPS: A play, performed in Farsi (English synopsis available) about Farokhi Yazdi, Iranian poet and freedom fighter. The author, Iraj Jannati Atefi, was a political prisoner under the regime of the Shah, and he directs this production by the Mazdak Theatre Group. Royal Court Theatre Upstairs, St Giles Square, London SW1 (730 1745). Previews Wed and Thurs at 7.30pm; press night Fri at 7.30pm. Then: Mon-Sat at 7.30pm.

VANITY FAIR: Cheek by Jowl company's adaptation of the Thackeray novel has been toured extensively including Israel and the Edinburgh Festival 1983. It is presented in repertory with Periods (Jan 14-18) and Racine's Andromache (Jan 21-26). Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, London WC2 (838 3028/8 or 379 6655). Opens Mon at 7.30pm, until Jan 12, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinee Sat at 3pm.

Selected

FOURTY YEARS ON Queen's Theatre (734 1166). Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 5pm and 8.15pm; matinees Wed at 3pm Transferred from Chichester, Alan Bennett's witty and nostalgic pageant of Britain from the 1900s to the 1960s, rich in wickedly funny parodies and presented as a boys' public school play with all that entails. Foyles Theatre, London WC2 (228 2252). Fri at 7.15pm. Uproarious and (thanks to John Mortimer's translation) surprisingly witty version of the Feydeau farce better known as Hotel Paradiso, with Graeme Garden as a spy bourgeois adulterer and Deborah Norton as a marital dragon.

THE WAY OF THE WORLD Haymarket (830 9832). Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinees Wed at 2.30pm, Sat at 3pm Maggie Smith at her scintillating best heads a starchy cast (with John Moffatt and Joan Plowright especially delightful) in William Gaskill's beautifully staged, though rather bland, production of Congreve's masterpiece.

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LIVERPOOL: Playhouse, Williamson Square (051 709 8363). Hinda Wakees by Stanley Houghton. Until Jan 19. Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 8pm; matinees Sat at 4pm A 1911 comedy in which a romantic ling leads to pressure "to do the decent thing".

OXFORD: Playhouse (0865 247133). Wed at 7.30pm, Thurs at 7.45pm, Sat at 8.15pm; matinees today at 4.30pm, Jan 12 at 4pm New production (which will tour of the latter comedy set on a cabin cruiser).

STRAITFORD: Royal Shakespeare Theatre (0789 2627). Love's Labour's Lost. Today at 1.30pm, Thurs and Fri at 7.30pm. In repertory Barry Kyle directs Edward Petherbridge, Josephine Simon, Roger Fries, Kenneth Cranagh, Hamlet. Today, Mon and Tues at 7.30pm. In repertory Roger Rees, Brian Blessed, Virginia McKenna, Frances Barber, directed by Ron Daniels. Richard III. Wed at 7.30pm, Thurs at 1.30pm. In repertory Anicury Sher, Patricia Routledge, directed by Bill Alexander. The Desert Air by Nicholas Wright. Thurs and Fri at 7.30pm. In repertory A "comedy about war and anger" set in Cairo, 1942. Directed by Bill Alexander. The Party by Trevor Griffiths. Today and Tues at 7.30pm. In repertory Left-wing radicals in London in 1958 debate the possibility of a British insurrection. Golden Girls by Louise Page. Wed at 7.30pm. In repertory Five women athletes in competition for four places in a national relay team.

THE SWING (PG) Everyman, Hampstead (435 1825) Percy Adlon, the fastidious German director of Caligula, broadens his scope with this leisurely, episodic and bewitching portrait of a Munich family at the end of the century, based on Annette Kolb's autobiographical novel. Grandly filmed with engaging performances and succulent photography. The Killing Fields (15) Warner West End (438 0791) Britain's lavish entry into the blockbuster war-movie arena, produced by David Putnam, directed by television veteran Roland Joffe. Sam Waterston stars as the American journalist covering the Cambodian war helped by a local man (Haing Ngor).

A PRIVATE FUNCTION (15) Odeon Haymarket (330 2738) Alan Bennett's first cinema script offers the riotous, rude post-war tale of a Yorkshire choroidist, a wife with social pretensions, and a pig with no social sense at all.

THE TERMINATOR (18): Arnold Schwarzenegger plays a half-human emissary from the future, up to no good in present-day Los Angeles. From Fri at the Leicester Square Theatre (330 5252).

FINDERS KEEPERS (18): Frantzen comedy about stolen money, mostly set on a train bound for Nebraska. Richard Lester directs with a manic grin; the cast features Michael O'Keefe, Beverly D'Angelo, David Wayne and Pamela Stephenson. From Fri at the Plaza (437 1234).

THE GREY FOX (PG): Immaculately photographed Canadian drama about a veteran stagecoach robber making his dazed debut in the 20th century after 33 years in prison. Directed by Phillip Borsos. From Fri at the Screen on the Hill (438 3366).

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Table listing shares for the period Finch to Fifteen Years with columns: Share Name, Price, Change, % P/E.

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Table listing shares for the period Over Fifteen Years with columns: Share Name, Price, Change, % P/E.

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OIL table listing oil-related shares and prices.

OVERSEAS TRADERS table listing overseas trading companies.

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Unstable sterling is not simply a petrocurrency

The pound yesterday enjoyed a welcome respite from the battering of recent weeks. So too did share prices, the FT 30-share index gaining 12.3 to 941.0 on an easing of money market rates, which inspired hope that a rise in bank base rates may, after all, be avoided.

The pound gained 43 points at \$1.1538 against the dollar, and the sterling index made a gain of 0.1 on the day, closing at 72.9.

Both levels would have been unthinkable a couple of months ago. Yet few have the confidence to say now that they represent a point from which sterling can stage a recovery.

For a few days, attention will be switched away from strong dollars and weak oil prices to British interest rates. Whether the authorities can get by the next few days without a rise in bank base rates, sterling's agonies are likely to continue.

It is difficult to find a convincing explanation why dollar strength is certainly a factor and sterling's petrocurrency status is the frequently quoted reason why sterling tends to fall further than other currencies when the dollar rises. Perhaps it is time to look critically at the petrocurrency argument.

It is true that there is a close statistical correlation between the pound and oil prices. The mark/sterling rate tends to track the spot oil price fairly closely, while the relationship between the sterling index and spot oil prices have allowed some analysts to develop a rule of thumb whereby every dollar off the oil price kips up two points off the sterling index.

It is, however, one thing for the spot oil price and the pound to be moving in line. It is another to say that the weakness of oil prices is causing the pound to fall.

A rising dollar has two main effects. The first, and obvious, is to push other currencies down. The second is to make oil and other dollar-priced commodities expensive in local currency terms. When demand for oil is slack, and when currencies fail to adjust, it is the dollar oil price which has to take a lot of the strain.

Thus, the dollar's rise may be the cause, a lower pound and lower oil prices the effects. The pound may suffer more than other currencies because sterling is a petrocurrency. Alternatively it may be because foreign exchange operators, in assessing currencies, simply perceive Britain's problems to be greater than those of Japan, Germany, or even France. Petrocurrency could be just a convenient shorthand for a long list of economic problems affecting Britain.

North Sea oil is even more important to Norway than to Britain and, while the Norwegian kroner is a third division currency, it has, compared with the pound, shown a remarkable degree of stability against the dollar.

Michael Hughes and Mark Brett at stockbrokers de Zoete & Bevan, while not dismissing the petrocurrency argument about the pound, say that "excess UK money growth, not oil, is the key to sterling in 1985". They measure excess money as the difference between growth in the wide money measure, PSL2, and gross domestic product in money terms. At present, the former is growing by about 15 per cent a year, the latter 7 per cent. The excess, of 8 per cent, they say, can either be saved, spent or sent abroad. If the latter is occurring, it is bad news for the pound and, they say: "Unless there are measures

to correct the UK's excess liquidity... we cannot rule out a dollar/pound parity in 1985."

David Morrison, currency economist at Simon & Coates, argues that the key reason for dollar strength, and for sterling weakness, arises out of the policy mix in the two countries. The United States has run a tight monetary and loose fiscal policy since Mr Reagan was elected, producing the twin effects of high interest rates and a thirst for foreign capital to fund the Federal budget deficit. The policy mix in Britain, at present, is working in the opposite way, with monetary policy too loose, and fiscal policy, it can be argued, far too tight.

Accepting the petrocurrency argument may also mean accepting that North Sea oil has been of net disadvantage to the economy. After all, a long-term purchasing power parity comparison would suggest a dollar-sterling rate of \$1.30-\$1.40 now. The talk has always been of a North Sea premium for sterling, by the same token we should perhaps now be talking of a North Sea discount.

As long as oil and sterling are inextricably linked in the minds of foreign exchange operators, then falling dollar oil prices will clearly have some effect. The danger is that the petrocurrency argument will be emphasised, to the exclusion of other, more important factors.

Parting of ways at Littlewoods

A clash over merchandising policy and the high cost of its store refurbishment programme are the main reasons behind the Littlewoods Organisation's decision to part company with two key managers, Tony Phillips, managing director of the stores division, and David Kirkman, buying director. Beyond confirming that the two men had gone Littlewoods was not prepared to comment.

Both men had been recruited within the last 18 months to help revitalize the chain of 108 stores. Mr Phillips, aged 44, was head-hunted from British Home Stores and under his direction Littlewoods stores have been changing their merchandising mix away from the traditional lines and food, towards more fashionwear. The results of the changes, which have been accompanied by heavy expenditure on store refurbishment, have been less than satisfactory. About 27 stores were due to be revamped this year at a total cost of £40 million.

Mr Phillips' predecessor, Tom McAuliffe, who had been running the Argos business, left at the end of 1982 after just four months in the job. At the time he left he said "I'm just recovering from the biggest mistake of my life," a feeling probably shared by the Littlewoods board. Littlewoods' 1983 accounts disclosed that it paid out a whopping £555,000 in compensation payments for loss of office to former directors. As well as Mr McAuliffe, the former group managing director Mr Philip Carter left in October 1983.

Littlewoods has been active in head hunting top flight men capable of revitalising its retail business. Among the most prominent recruits have been Desmond Picher, who was previously head of Plessey's telecommunications operations, and John Martyn, former finance director of BICC.

A good price for P & O Ferries

P&O shares put on a net 6p to 314p in response to the sale of P&O Ferries' five loss-making cross-channel ships to European Ferries for £12.5 million. In sheer accounting terms it looks a good deal. The cross-Channel routes had been losing money for years - an estimated £4.4 million in the latest six months. Even Lord Inchcape, Sir Jeffrey Sterling's optimistic predecessor at the P&O helm, could not see much profit coming from that direction.

To sell such a business for well above its book value of £10 million looks a good earner for shareholders of Sir Jeffrey's determination - and ability to sort out P&O's low-earning assets quickly.

The sheer excellence of the deal from P&O's point of view also poses its weakness. It is doubtful if Sir Jeffrey could have obtained anything like such a good price from any buyer other than European Ferries (with the possible exception of Sea Containers, owners of privatized Sealink).

European Ferries can add P&O's 10 per cent of the cross-Channel passenger and freight market to its own 38 per cent, which, remember, ruled both yesterday's buyer and seller out of the Sealink auction. The combined share of the passenger market alone is even bigger.

The value of the five ships to European Ferries must surely be to raise its market power either directly, or by eventually withdrawing the ships from that particular market. Some rationalization will certainly be required if Sir Nigel Brookes' Eurotote or even a Channel tunnel is built. Whether the Office of Fair Trading and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission are prepared to take such a long-term view before plans for a permanent Channel crossing have even been approved remains to be seen.

If the deal goes through, incidentally, another valuable shareholder perk will disappear or be heavily diluted. P&O shareholders now enjoy a 50 per cent discount on cross-Channel ferries.

Societies' record inflows may delay mortgage rise

By Richard Thomson and David Smith

Most building societies are confident that they could withstand even a 1 1/2 per cent point rise in bank base rates before raising their mortgage and deposit rates.

The societies' healthy financial position was revealed after pressure for a rise in bank base rates eased yesterday. Money market interest rates edged back downwards after their sharp rise on Wednesday and Thursday. Sterling made small gains against most currencies.

Tuesday's provisional money supply figures and the short-term performance of the pound are still regarded as crucial for the course of base rates.

Building societies expect to have taken in a record amount in deposits - around £1 billion - for the month of December. They believe inflows will remain strong because their deposit rates are high in comparison to most other savings market interest rates.

Mr Roy Gravestock, assistant general manager of the Halifax, said: "even if base rates went to 11 per cent, we could hold our position for a time - perhaps two months". The Woolwich agreed with this view: "We could continue at present levels for a time if base rates rose," said a spokesman.

Not all the societies agree they could resist a rise in their interest rates however. The Society National said it would almost certainly have to increase its rates if base rates rose 1 per cent point.

Everything depended on the level of deposit inflows, the society said and if other savings rates increased the Abbey's rates would have to compete.

A number of societies said they were waiting to see how the level of mortgage demand and the movement of interest rates develops. The societies do not meet for their regular discussion of interest rates until February 8.

A BSA spokesman said the December receipts were "quite remarkable". The societies took in £880 million in December 1983.

The BSA ascribed the inflow to high building society deposit rates and to money returned to British Telecom investors who had not received all the shares they had asked for.

The biggest inflows had come in the week before Christmas, overcoming the normal seasonal trend of lower receipts in December, the BSA said. January was normally a much better month for deposits than December, the BSA added, but after last month's performance, this January's inflows could turn out to be lower.

The big December inflow will help the societies to overcome the £500 million of lost deposits in November when investors were withdrawing money to buy the BT shares.

Meanwhile in the money markets, the key three-month interbank rate closed at 1 1/2-10 1/2 yesterday, down a 1/4 point on the day, but still rates of around a 1/2 point. Sentiment was helped by an improved performance for sterling and the determination of the authorities to prevent any rise in bank base rates, if possible.

Dealers said a rise in base rates, currently 9 1/2 per cent for Lloyds, National Westminster and Midland, and 9 1/4 per cent for Barclays, remained a strong possibility next week.

This was also the view on the foreign exchanges where the pound gained 43 points to \$1.1538 against the dollar and 0.1 to 72.9 on the sterling index.

EEC steel agreement with US finalized

Brussels (Agencies) - The European Economic Community yesterday reached agreement with Washington to curb its steel pipe and tube exports to the United States, a European Commission spokesman announced in Brussels.

The commission originally said a week ago the row had been settled but the US then raised more outstanding questions.

The US mission to the Community confirmed yesterday that agreement had been reached but could give no details. A US spokesman said the text of an exchange of letters spelling out the accord would be completed by negotiators in Washington.

Community officials said it settles differences over the Community's offer to limit its sales to 7.6 per cent of the US market over the next two years, against 14.6 per cent last year.

Under the deal, about 60,000 tonnes of the products already held in customs warehouses will not be included in the 1985 import quota, they said.

However US officials have estimated that between 100,000 and 200,000 tonnes of pipes and tubes have been shipped to America since Washington imposed a total embargo on Community imports on November 29.

The balance will have to be counted against the 1985 import quota unless it qualifies for exemption under a so-called "short supply" clause allowing imports of products not available from the US steel industry. Community officials said.

Community officials estimate EEC sales of pipes and tubes to the United States at 730,000 tonnes this year, compared with 1.06 million tonnes in the first nine months of 1984.

The new quota has been divided among the EEC members (in percentages of the US market): West Germany, 2.82 per cent; Italy, 2 per cent; France 0.93 per cent; Greece, 0.52 per cent; Belgium 0.48 per cent; Britain, 0.48 per cent; Netherlands, 0.28 per cent and Luxembourg 0.17 per cent. Denmark and Ireland do not export tubes.

Tobacco farmers seek curbs

Washington (AP) - US tobacco imports should be restricted before they drive American tobacco farmers out of business, members of Congress have told the US International Trade Commission.

"It is vital to the survival of a significant segment of the nation's economy that the ITC recommended import restrictions," said the chairman of the Senate's agriculture committee, Mr Jesse Helms of North Carolina.

Senate Mendell Ford of Kentucky said: "One point must be made absolutely clear - tobacco growers in the United States are hurt, and hurt badly."

comparison to most other savings market interest rates. Mr Roy Gravestock, assistant general manager of the Halifax, said: "even if base rates went to 11 per cent, we could hold our position for a time - perhaps two months". The Woolwich agreed with this view: "We could continue at present levels for a time if base rates rose," said a spokesman.

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The big December inflow will help the societies to overcome the £500 million of lost deposits in November when investors were withdrawing money to buy the BT shares. Meanwhile in the money markets, the key three-month interbank rate closed at 1 1/2-10 1/2 yesterday, down a 1/4 point on the day, but still rates of around a 1/2 point. Sentiment was helped by an improved performance for sterling and the determination of the authorities to prevent any rise in bank base rates, if possible.

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Carmakers' output slumps 10%

Car and commercial vehicle production in Britain slumped in 1984. Final figures from the Department of Trade & Industry for November show that car output in the first 11 months of 1984 was 10 per cent down on the corresponding period of 1983, with little prospect that December's figures will significantly affect the full-year comparison.

Car output in 1984 will have fallen below 1 million units, the Department of Trade & Industry says, compared with 1,044,597 in 1983. The probable full-year figure is about 930,000. In comparison with 1983, there has been a sharp drop in the production of cars for export, down 20 per cent, while production for the home market has fallen by 8 per cent.

Commercial vehicle production, while holding up slightly better than car output, still fell back to depressed 1981 levels last year.

In the first 11 months, production was down by 6 per cent on the corresponding period of 1983, at 209,941 units. Production for export fell by 19 per cent.

Renault, the French state-owned vehicle manufacturer, lost Fr9 billion (£800 million) in 1984, according to a report in the newspaper Liberation. This would be five times the 1983 loss. Fr5 billion of the loss is attributed to the cars division, Fr2 billion to heavy vehicles, and Fr2 billion to the introduction of a new workers' assistance scheme last autumn.

Renault said yesterday that the figure was merely supposition and no more credible than earlier estimates of 1984 losses. Official figures will be published in June, losses for the first six months of 1984 totalled Fr3.6 billion.

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IN BRIEF

Policy chief for IMF

Mr Onno Ruding, the Finance Minister, has been appointed chairman of the key policymaking Interim Committee of the International Monetary Fund, it was announced in the Hague yesterday.

Mr Ruding will take over on Sunday as head of the Interim Committee, a group of 22 ministers from leading IMF member states, that deals with proposals for reforming the international monetary system.

The committee is responsible for making IMF policy between the Fund's annual meeting and its chairman has an influential role in coordinating and preparing its work.

Mr Ruding replaced the Belgian Finance Minister, Mr Willy de Clercq, who has become a member of the European Commission.

Profits slip

New Court Natural Resources, with investments in North American oil and gas exploration and production, has reported a drop in pretax profits for the six months to September 30, 1984, to £779,000 down from £838,000. Turnover increased from £1.8 million to £2.2 million. There is no interim dividend.

The United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is taking a preliminary look at how the increasing internationalisation of world financial markets will affect its regulation of the US stocks and shares industry. The SEC said agency representatives have begun informal talks with securities industry officials about the advantages as well as the problems that may occur as US shares, bonds and other securities begin increasingly to be traded throughout the world and around the clock.

Tempus, page 23

Backing for bid

The board of Comfort Hotels International has formally recommended that shareholders accept the takeover bid from Ladbrooke, which values the group at £58.4 million. Acceptance must be received by next Friday.

£69,000 payout

The engine component manufacturer, AE, made an *ex gratia* payment of £69,000 to a former director last year, according to the latest report and accounts. Two directors left during the year. Mr Kevin Corcoran, and Mr Malcolm Nortgate.

Merger plan

Diamond Shamrock and Occidental Oil have announced a merger. Sources say talks between the two companies have been going on for nearly a year. Diamond closed yesterday in New York at 17 1/2, unchanged. Occidental closed at 26 1/2, down 1/4.

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In order to prove it we will enter your name in our next Free Prize Draw which takes place on...

Table with columns: Share, Bought for, Sold for, % Gain. Rows include Lentacons (GB), Renault (FR), etc.

PROFIT RECORD SINCE 15th SEPTEMBER 1984 It's all very well knowing what to buy - the real secret is knowing what to sell. This is our full 'sell' record since the 15th September 1984.

FREE PRIZE DRAW We guarantee to turn £500 of penny shares into £1,000 in just six weeks.

Form for entering details for the Free Prize Draw, including name, address, and signature.

SMC WEEKLY CONTENTS \* One or more 'Hot Tips' - act by Thursday lunchtime before other subscribers push up the prices.

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FREE SIX TRIAL ISSUES Of course, share prices can go down, as well as up. But we don't want you to risk a penny of your own money until you're convinced that you will make a profit by acting on our advice.

SAVE £2? In addition to six free issues you can also receive the balance of your first year's subscription to SMC for just £2.

STOCK MARKET CONFIDENTIAL Hainault Park, Little Heath, Redditch, Essex. RM9 6PN SEND BY 15th JANUARY 1985

Poll boost for Brazil's shares

The São Paulo Stock Exchange, Brazil's largest, has been setting records this week on the strength of remarks by the senior Tancredio Neves, the man expected to win the country's presidential elections in January 15.

The index of most negotiated stocks rose by 5.6 per cent on Tuesday, to reach a record high of 13,806 points, and climbed another 4.3 per cent the next day to 14,396.

Senior Neves, who seems certain to become Brazil's first civilian president in 20 years, has increasingly supported free enterprise, during his election campaign.

He is committed to reverse the increasing proportion of the country's gross domestic product which has been taken by state enterprises since the military takeover in 1964.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table with columns: STOCK MARKETS, MAIN PRICE CHANGES, CURRENCIES, INTEREST RATES, GOLD. Lists various market data and prices.

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WALL STREET

Table of stock market data including Dow Jones Industrial Average, S&P 500, and various stock prices.

Dow starts lower

New York (AP Dow Jones) - Wall Street stocks continued to move lower early yesterday, but trading was slow.

The Dow Jones Industrial average was down more than six points to below 1184.

Declining issues were more than eight to five ahead of gaining issues.

Mr Gene Jay Seagle of Herzfeld & Stern said the market weakness was a reminder of the January action last year.

Mr Seagle said: "The market has been disturbed more by the stock index moves by some large houses and institutions than by the fundamental disturbance of the tax reform uncertainties and discussions of coming congressional action on the treasury's tax proposals which could pick out those things less attractive for the market."

The weakness thus was a temporary factor Mr Seagle said. "Therefore, the outlook is on track for a better year as we go along and there is the probability of new highs in the first quarter," he said.

International Business Machines fell 1/2 to 119 1/2. General Motors fell 1/4 to 75 1/2. Exxon fell 1/4 to 75 1/2. Texas Instruments fell 1/4 to 117 and Motorola fell 1/4 to 33 1/2.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including LONDON COMMODITY PRICES, SUGAR, COFFEE, RUBBER, and various metals.

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK

Table of meat and livestock prices including CATTLE, PORK, and BEEF.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table of foreign exchange rates for various currencies including EURO, JAPANESE YEN, and AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR.

EURO-CURRENCY DEPOSITS

Table of Euro-currency deposit rates for various banks and currencies.

GOLD

Table of gold prices and market activity.

APPOINTMENTS

BBA Group: Dr John G. White becomes chairman of Minix. Scandura Inc, Scandura and Textar G.M.B.H.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of investment trust performance data including High/Low, Price, and Change.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table of financial trust performance data including High/Low, Price, and Change.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table of dollar spot rates for various countries.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Table of other sterling rates for various countries.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures prices including Three Month Sterling, Three Month Eurodollar, and US Treasury Bond.

AUTHORIZED UNIT TRUSTS

Large table listing authorized unit trusts with columns for Name, Price, and Change.

INSURANCE BONDS AND FUNDS

Table listing insurance bonds and funds with columns for Name, Price, and Change.



CLAIMS

When your cover may not be fireproof

Miss Sarah Millard-Thompson paid the premiums for the contents insurance on the Small House in Alton, Hampshire...

Mr Geoffrey Holt, the tenant in this case is searching for a satisfactory way of arranging household insurance which would cover both landlord and tenant...

Vivien Goldsmith

Expatriates' guide

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales has brought out a second edition of its useful tax guide for expatriates Employment Abroad - A Guide to the Tax Problems...

operated in conjunction with Learning Spar Building Society and Clerical Medical and General Life Assurance in association with Fidelity International fund managers...

Free banking All the big clearing banks are now offering free banking to retired customers in credit...



"However, to each remaining member of my family I bequeath a copy of the following booklet..."

The why of wills

One of the most important aspects of anyone's financial planning is the making of a will. People dying intestate can cause not only appalling legal muddles but even considerable hardship for their families and dependants...

HOUSE INSURANCE

Improved cover, but take care

Insurance brokers are busily offering the new Lloyd's Householder's policy which came into effect on January 1. Although the rate may appear attractive for buildings cover, the policy should be approached with caution...

disadvantage compared with other buildings policies. Another improvement is the change of words from "bursting or overflowing" of water tanks, apparatus or pipes...

apparat has been increased to £25. Those without a mortgage may consider the Lloyd's no-fills Householder's policy meets their needs, but the clause on cover for subsidence, landslip or heave should be accepted only after serious consideration...

MORTGAGES

Home loan optimism from building societies

Last year was a good one for anybody who wanted a mortgage. Funds were readily available and queues were no longer than the three or four weeks it normally takes to process a mortgage application...

And the societies are likely to gain a considerable advantage in April when the high street banks have to start paying interest on their savings accounts net of composite rate tax, throwing their low rates and the building societies' much higher ones into stark relief...

mortgage loans, totalling £2.8 billion outstanding, would like to lend a further £1 billion in 1985. And the other banks, including several US banks, show no signs of reducing their lending either...

Conal Gregory

Richard Thomson

Save & Prosper. Winners of Daily Telegraph Unit Trust Competition 1984.

WHY SAVE & PROSPER IS SO CONFIDENT ABOUT JAPAN

Advertisement for Save & Prosper Japan Growth Fund, featuring a map of Japan and key statistics like 'Higher than expected corporate profits' and 'Substantial funds awaiting investment'.

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Optimism on share prices The stock market has begun to reflect this strength, and for three important reasons we anticipate a further significant rally...

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Invest today! Just complete and return the coupon, together with your cheque (minimum £250), either direct to us or through your professional adviser. On 2nd January 1985 the offer price of units was 58.1p and the estimated gross starting yield was nil...

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GENERAL INFORMATION Objective: To provide a portfolio invested in the shares of Japanese companies. Dealing in units may normally be bought or sold on any working day...

To: Save & Prosper Securities Ltd, FREEPOST, Romford RM1 1BR. Telephone: 0708-66966.

I wish to invest £ (minimum £250 initially, £100 subsequently) in the Save & Prosper Japan Growth Fund at the offer price prevailing on the day of receipt of my application...

AGENTS STAMP 024 RR RA CD No. The offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.



REVISED INTEREST RATES

From 1st January 1985

Table with columns: Type of Account, Net P.A. %, Gross %.

TEACHERS' BUILDING SOCIETY form for investment details: Name, Address, Shares and deposits in the Society are Trustee Investments...

The Third Lazard Development Capital Fund

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For a copy of the memorandum, on the basis of which alone applications can be made, please telephone:

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GRE, winners of the Observer Unit Trust Managers of the Year Award '1984.

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(Or) I have [ ] in invest and am looking for secure income, long-term capital growth, long-term growth of capital and income.

Name: Address: Postcode:

To: Guardian Royal Exchange Unit Managers Limited, Royal Exchange, London EC3V 3JL. Member of the Unit Trust Association.





FAMILY MONEY

UNIT TRUSTS

Income fund is the year's best

British Telecom shares, with their extraordinary doubling in value in a matter of days, were probably the brightest star of 1984 in the stock market for many investors. But despite such glimmering capital gains it was the income funds among the unit trusts which did best.

Table with 2 columns: Fund Name, Current value of £100 invested over 12 months to January 1, 1985. Funds include Manulife High Income, Fidelity Japan, Gartmore Hong Kong, Oppenheimer Income & Growth, Key Equity and General, M & G Midland General, Wardley UK, Growth Japan Growth, Vanguard Special Situations, GRE Growth Equity.

By the end of the year domestic stocks were the best. The fund's returns were also boosted by the 16 per cent fall in sterling against the yen during the year.

Miss Lynette Ryals, manager of Manulife High Income, the best performing fund in 1984, said: "It was a good year all round for income funds. Economic recovery was showing through in company profits with dividend growth at around 20 per cent. We were 95 per cent invested in equities and had a very low exposure to fixed interest stocks, so we got the full benefit of the recovery."

Not every sector of the market performed so well, but Manulife stuck mainly to recovery stocks and this paid off, she added.

However, as British Telecom showed, there was no shortage of capital gains to be made in the stock market. The FT All-share index started the year at 771.8 and hit a record high on New Year's Eve of 952.3, a gain of 23 per cent.

Large capital gains were also to be made in Japan during the year, although conditions here were considerably more volatile. Over the whole year the whole year the Nikkei Dow Jones index advanced 17 per cent to a high of 11,577 in early December. But this was only after peaking in May at over 11,000 and falling back again in July to 9,700.

Fidelity Japan, the year's second highest performing fund, achieved success by dealing rapidly in and out of temporary situations.

Mr Peter Scott, of Gartmore, commented that political uncertainty had kept the market cheap all year, and the late surge in prices was simply an erosion of this discount. He believes this process will continue well into 1985.

As with Japanese investments, the Hong Kong fund also did well out of currency movements. Since it is pegged to the US dollar the Hong Kong dollar appreciated against sterling to the same extent - around 20 per cent.

But despite their currency gains, American unit trusts did not do so well. The American stock market tended to be left behind towards the end of the year, and, as several fund managers observed, its weakness seemed to have had no effect recently on other world markets like Britain and Japan.

Richard Thomson

Table titled 'Base Lending Rates' listing various banks and their rates: ABN Bank (9 1/2%), Adam & Company (9 1/2%), Barclays (9 1/2%), BCCI (9 1/2%), Citibank Savings (10 1/2%), Consolidated Credit (9 1/2%), Continental Trust (9 1/2%), C. Hoare & Co (9 1/2%), Lloyds Bank (9 1/2%), Midland Bank (9 1/2%), Nat Westminster (9 1/2%), TSB (9 1/2%), Williams & Glyn's (9 1/2%), Citibank NA (9 1/2%).

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Form with fields for NAME, ADDRESS, and Tel No. Includes a checkbox for 'Information required: INCOME GROWTH'.

Advertisement for 'The Beaumont Development Capital Fund 1984/85'. Text includes: 'ESTABLISHED UNDER THE BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEME', 'In the past many of the bright ideas of the British entrepreneur have either been developed abroad or left on one side due to the lack of suitable risk finance...', 'THIS MAY BE ONE OF THE LAST OPPORTUNITIES THIS TAX YEAR TO INVEST THROUGH A RES FUND', 'FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE BEAUMONT DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL FUND', 'This advertisement is not an invitation to invest. For full details, without obligation, please complete and return the form below. The minimum investment is £2,500. The closing date for the application list has been extended to Wednesday 10th January 1985.', 'NAME: ADDRESS: DAY TEL. NO.', 'Return completed form to: Mrs S. Bentley, Burrage & Co. Ltd., 117 Fenchurch Street, London, EC3M 5AL. Tel No: 01-480 7216.'

Advertisement for 'The coupon at the bottom'. Text includes: 'One thing's guaranteed to put this investor in the know for 1985.', 'The coupon at the bottom.', 'This investor is a wise man. Before making his New Year investment plans he resolves to contact Britannia. It could be the most profitable move he makes in the New Year. Why? Because we will provide him with the latest news about current market conditions all over the world - from Tokyo to the City of London, from Hong Kong to Wall Street. We'll also help him to structure his portfolio to take advantage of current market opportunities. After all, he has only to look at the table below.', 'A £1000 invested 5 years ago has grown to:', 'American Smaller Companies Trust £3101, Financial Securities Trust £2792, Japan Performance Fund £4150, National High Income Trust £2755, Smaller Companies Trust £3622.', 'Statistics from Financial Statistics, 1st Dec. 1984, after 100% net income reinvested.', 'To see how well Britannia Unit Trusts have done over the medium term. At Britannia we have Unit Trust investments for every wise man... and woman. Fill in the coupon below and find out which ones we recommend for 1985 and why.', 'Britannia GROUP OF UNIT TRUSTS LTD. To: Richard Bagge, Director, Britannia Group of Unit Trusts Ltd., Salisbury House, 29, Finsbury Circus, London, EC2M 5QL. Tel: 01-583 2777. Please send me your investment recommendations for 1985. Mr/Mrs/Miss: Address: Postcode: Please tick if you already hold Britannia Unit Trusts. T54'

Romania visit historic monument to unveil a familiar patent

Romania's appearance at Twickenham this afternoon in a full international against England is for them the fulfilment of a dream. Whether they regard the game as an end in itself, or merely a new beginning to a journey which will see them accepted as equal partners in the European scheme of things, may have a contributory effect on the outcome of the game. Regardless of their previous experience - and Romania have plenty of that - teams have been known to "freeze" at Twickenham and home advantage may be of considerable value to England, especially when it is remembered that Romania's greatest triumphs of the last 14 months have been achieved with Ireland in Dublin, Wales in Cardiff and Scotland in Edinburgh during the last six years, but Continental Twickenham has always regarded Romania as the historic monument which they have queued long to enter.

The effect of the ground is conjecture and has not entered into England's plans. Their preparations, concluded yesterday at St Mary's College, Strawberry Hill, have been based on no more than 35 per cent possession, though there must be hope that they can win considerably more than that. If they do, England have a back division of rare potential to release, although the swings and roundabouts of selection have been revolving recently at breakneck speed, the current team have pace and agility in the backs, together with that rarer commodity, footballing ability. If stringer can effect his entries into the line at the proper time, the England backs should have the beating of what

Table titled 'Today's teams at Twickenham' comparing England and Romania players. England players include N C Stringer, ST Smith, K O Sims, P W Dodge, J Underwood, C R Andrew, R M Harding, P J Blakeway, S E Brain, G S Pearce, J P Hall, J Orwin, W A Dooley, G W Rees, R Hesford. Romania players include S Podarescu, M Toader, A Lungu, M Margheaba, M Aldea, A Alexandru, M Paraschiv, I Bucan, E Grigore, G Leortu, F Muzariu, G Dumitru, G Caragea, A Radulescu, L Constantin.

Dooley will police the lineouts while Andrew tries to steal space as new boys get their chance

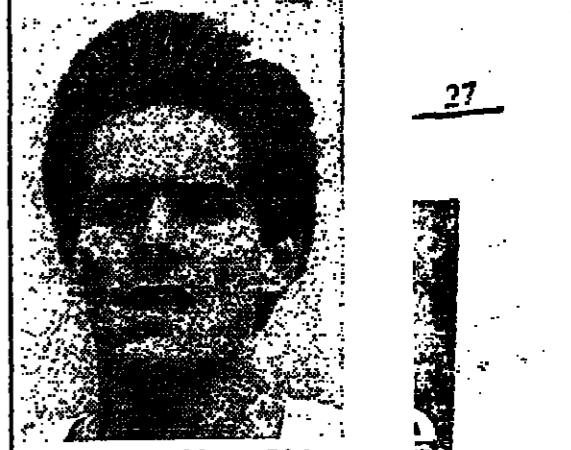
Andrew can build on his name as architect. Selection for England at the moment might be considered to have the job opportunity appeal of a Lorean car: writers of programme notes can barely keep pace from match to match with the passing procession. Yet one man at least will be trying to face today's encounter with Romania as if it were his twentieth cap rather than his first, in the company with five others.

Rob Andrew is under no illusion about stepping into an ailing team in which exorable lack of confidence and familiarity might prove an advantage to the as-yet less than spectacular Romanians. "Even though it is the first time, it's not going to be a total shock," says the stand-off half who was the precocious architect of Cambridge's stylish victory over Oxford, with six tries, a month ago. "It is pointless to be worried about getting selected again, about making mistakes, because you're going to make them. So it's no good retreating into a shell."

One of 23 new caps over an 11-month period, Andrew replaces Stuart Barnes, from Bristol, who made his disappointing first appearance in the ragged performance against the all-conquering Australians. Andrew does not see to be the view that it is a bad moment to be given a chance. "Just suppose we can get it right early on, if the weather is not too severe? Every sport is so much a matter of confidence as to whether you get selected. Although most of the backs are new, they know each other. Most of them have played with each other at some time. Simon, in the centre, and Smith, on the right wing, are also Cambridge men. Andrew and Rory Underwood, now with Leicester, learned their rugby side by side from the age of 11 for seven years at Burnham Castle. Yet one man at least, both appearing with Middlesex before Underwood joined the RAF and subsequently switched to the Midlands club. It is probably a key to their success that they were trained from the start by Bob Clark, from Gloucester, to play instinctively. "And to run straight."

Laidlaw returns to South for deciding game

By Ian McLachlan Murrayfield, with its under-soil heating, will be the venue for the final two matches in the inter-district championship. South v Anglo-Scots, which will decide the destination of the title, will kick off at 12.30, followed by the Edinburgh v Glasgow match at 2.0. South have made three changes in their winning team of last Saturday. Paul Hogarth drops out, Iain Paxton comes in at No 8, with Derek Campbell behind him, and Alastair Campbell replaces the injured Tom Smith in the second row. Roy Laidlaw returns at scrum half. Anglo-Scots only change is at hooker, where Tim Sinclair (Headingley) replaces Rob Cunningham. South, with four jumpers to the Anglos' two, should win the lineouts. They will want to sharpen up their back play from last week. Glasgow who have yet to win a game this season, make five changes. Edinburgh are unchanged.



Goodbye to Belfast after today

Tim Hutchings, the outstanding success of the cross-country season for the second year, has his last race in Europe in Belfast today before leaving for three months training and racing in warmer climes in New Zealand. He should be as untouchable in winning the eight kilometre race in Mullusk on the outskirts of Belfast as he has been in his four cross-country races in Britain and France during the last six weeks. And the fact that Hutchings has a lingering desire to break his Antipodean trip to run in the world championships in Lisbon on March 24 - in the hope of improving on his second career best last season - and winning his first big title - will be a salutary reminder to Barry Wallman, the secretary of the English selection committee, who is refusing to nominate Hutchings immediately, a move which could well persuade him to run in Lisbon - and gain universal approval for a battle royal against Carlos Lopes, of Portugal, the world champion, on his home course. Hutchings' participation would also prove a substantial advantage to England in their campaign to retrieve the world title, which they have won so many times, but which they have been denied both through the excellence of the Ethiopians and English selectorial incompetence during the last three years.

The selectors are sitting on wiser council and refusing to name Hutchings (as they must do) until after the National championships on March 24. Hutchings says, would permit him to orient his training accordingly. The Mullusk race, sponsored by the local Milk Marketing Board, has had some impressive winners in the past - Steve Overt, Brendan Foster, Mike McLeod - but this afternoon's field is the best in depth ever assembled.

Zou Zhenan, fourth in the triple jump at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles, is among the Chinese team who will compete in the Pearri Assurance A.A. indoor championships at RAF Cosford on January 25-26. Also in the Chinese team - the first to compete in Britain - is Li Meisu, who finished fifth in the women's shot put in Los Angeles.

HOCKEY Midlands juniors drop out

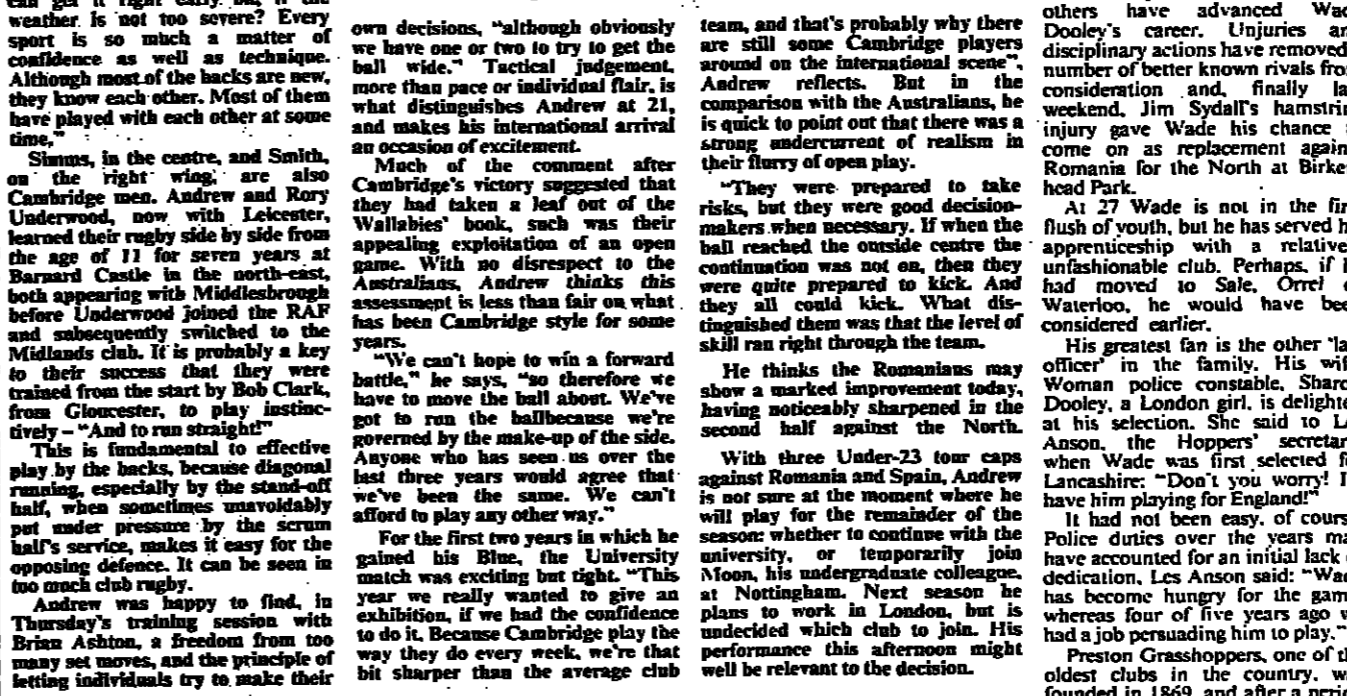
The Midlands have been forced to withdraw from the junior divisional indoor tournament due to be played today at the Kelsey Kerridge Sports Hall, Cambridge. They are unable to put out a side because several of the players have been drawn away by an outdoor training weekend with the England Under-21 squad. The organizers of the indoor event were trying yesterday to raise a club side from the East, possibly the Pelicans, to fill the vacancy. If this plan fails the three remaining teams, North, South and East, will play one another twice at Cambridge. This is an unsatisfactory state of affairs and the sponsors of the event, Norwich Union, appear to have been let down. David Smith of Bromley, the England reserve indoor goalkeeper, confirmed yesterday that he would play for Firebrands of Bristol in the Glenfield Invitation tournament at the Bellahouston Sports Centre, Glasgow, today and tomorrow. This will be Firebrand's first appearance in this distinguished tournament and they face a difficult task, having been drawn in the same group as the Scottish champions, Murray International, Metals and the Dutch champions, Hattens. Avecca, the runners-up in the Irish championship, are the fourth team in the group.

Team Volkswagen, the Irish champions from Belfast and holders of the trophy, head the other group, where the opposition comes from New South Wales, the Australian State champions, and two other Scottish clubs, Mezzies Hill and M. A. Systems. Murray International have injury problems and both Plevin and Scouler are doubtful starters.

St Albans, who have not yet won a match in the premier division of the London League, will have a hard game against Southgate today. There are doubts about Hurst's availability in goal but St Albans have both Hatfield and Port back from indoor duty with the England team. Predictably, the men from the media have made much of his famous name. Tom, immortalized in song. The comparison is not an apt one. Here is a policeman, his lot a distinctly happy one, who hopes that today someone else is going to do the dying.

ICE HOCKEY Panthers are given the slip

James J. C. McEwan, Nottingham Panthers' latest Canadian signing, flew home yesterday (Robert Pryce writes). He had not played a game for the club, who have neither seen nor heard from him since practice on Tuesday night. "It was my mistake," McEwan said from Heathrow yesterday. "I should have finished college first." He plans to resume his freshman year at the University of Calgary. The disappearance of the former Leithbridge Broncos' centre surprised Gary Keward, the Nottingham manager, who reported him missing to the police yesterday. "After practice," Keward said, he was bubbling over and looking forward to the game on Saturday.



Dooley will lay down the law for his wife

Dooley will lay down the law for his wife. The name Wade Dooley conjures up a misanthropic sheriff, standing at the saloon bar with his own whisky bottle and occasionally shooting someone over his shoulder without looking round, the analogy holds good at one point. England's newest lock forward is a law man. A 6ft 8in, 18-stone Blackpool policeman, Wade Dooley's rise from obscurity to international selection has amazed and delighted all those who have admired his remarkable physique and international potential. Even those who knew him best at his club, Preston Grasshoppers, have blinked at the transformation that has taken place, largely under the influence of Richard Greenwood, the English coach, who joined Hoppers five years ago to play and to coach. A dramatic improvement in the club's fortunes, culminating in a greatly improved playing record, and an appearance in the Lancashire Cup final, were largely attributed to Greenwood's dynamism. But he is adamant that there is no hint of favouritism in Dooley's advancement. "Wade is a real lineout jumper, he's a superb scrumrunner, a big, athletic man and he's a good ball player. He's also a good listener!" Obviously, the misfortunes of others have advanced Wade Dooley's career. Unjuries and disciplinary actions have removed a number of better known rivals from consideration and, finally last weekend, Jim Sydnal's hamstring injury gave Wade his chance to come on as replacement against Romania for the North at Birkenhead Park. At 27 Wade is not in the first flush of youth but he has served his apprenticeship with a relatively unfashionable club. Perhaps, if he had moved to Sale, Orrell or Waterloo, he would have been considered earlier. His greatest fan is the other 'law officer' in the family, his wife, Sharon. A London girl, she is delighted at his selection. She said to Les Anson, the Hoppers' secretary, when Wade was first selected for Lancashire: "Don't you worry! I'll have him playing for England!" That had not been easy, of course. Police duties over the years may have accounted for an initial lack of dedication. Les Anson said: "Wade has become hungry for the game, whereas four or five years ago we had a job persuading him to play."

Preston Grasshoppers, one of the oldest clubs in the country, was founded in 1869, and after a period of great success in the 1870's and 80's, won their last cap for England when J. A. Schofield played in his solitary international against Wales. Predictably, the men from the media have made much of his famous name. Tom, immortalized in song. The comparison is not an apt one. Here is a policeman, his lot a distinctly happy one, who hopes that today someone else is going to do the dying.

Dooley: 'hungry'

SPORT FOOTBALL: ARSENAL MANAGER INSPIRED BY NORTH LONDON RIVALS

Tradition Time for Nicholas to start dealt a blow by Everton getting into the action in Cup game at Hereford

By Peter Ball
Leeds United 0
Everton 2
The tradition that the FA Cup holders go out at the first attempt...

It is time the Charlie Nicholas of football began living up to their reputations even if it might be asking too much to look like a million dollars...

Manchester United's third round FA Cup tie with Bourne-mouth at Old Trafford is doubtful because part of the pitch is frozen...

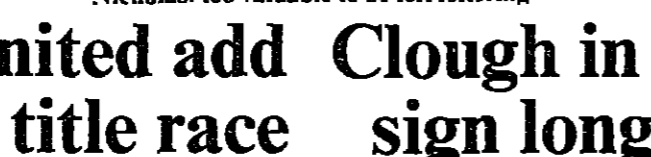
player, who takes over from the injured Delve. Another of Howe's examples to Nicholas might have been Gerry Francis...

Loughan, under challenge but in no real danger, hand-balled his home the penalty to give his side a lead they barely deserved...

Reid, Bracewell and Steven threatened to take control of midfield from their younger, more tactically involved as Everton's last move...

Forest, who have fallen at the third round hurdle for the past three seasons. "We have been knocked out of everything this season so it would be nice to make inroads in the FA Cup..."

Regis, still many peoples idea of England's best centre forward, is in the Coventry City squad for the home match with Manchester City...



Nicholas: too valuable to be left loitering

Dundee United add interest to title race

By Hugh Taylor
A vote of thanks is due to Dundee United for throwing open the race for the premier division title...

Clough in no rush to sign long contract

Brian Clough will wait a year before deciding whether his future lies at Nottingham Forest...

Forest, who have fallen at the third round hurdle for the past three seasons. "We have been knocked out of everything this season so it would be nice to make inroads in the FA Cup..."



Clough: to make up mind

Richter scales heights as records tumble

Dark Richter, of East Germany, set a world best time for the men's 100 metres backstroke when he recorded 34.38sec...

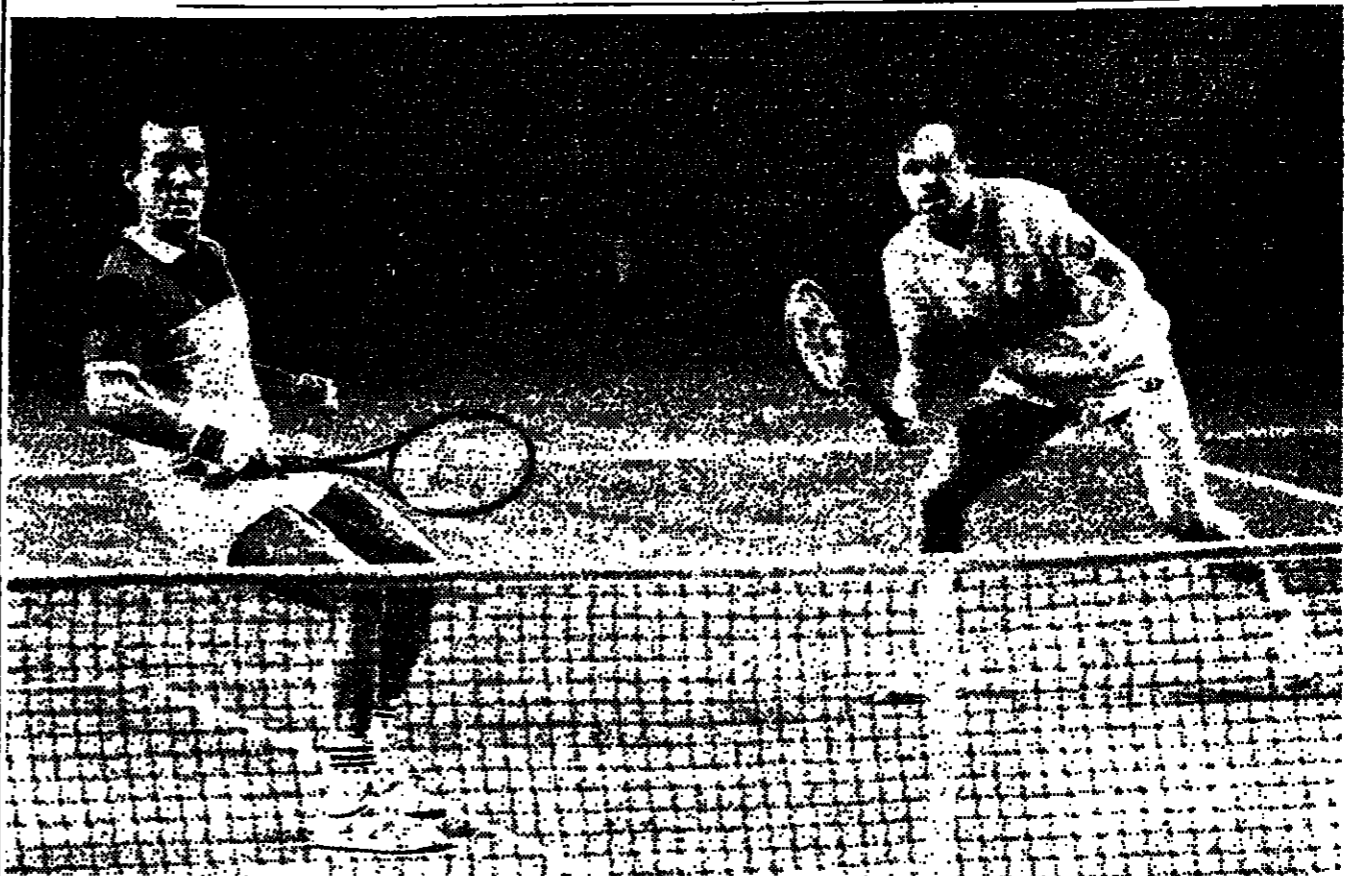
Turn a blind eye to grave words

Are you worried about your health? Are you frightened of dying young - say at 75? If so, I would advise you not to read newspapers...

SIDELINES Gordon Allan

Should they try squash or stick to frisbees? I am sorry for these people, nervous wrecks to the last man and woman...

TENNIS: FIBAK COULD BE FIRST PLAYER TO WIN EVENT THREE TIMES



Mayer (left) and Fibak, a doubles partnership good enough to beat almost any team anywhere. (Photograph Chris Cole)

First reserves get into the finals

Wojtek Fibak and Sandy Mayer won their three matches in the All-Play All series to qualify for today's semi-final round of the WCT doubles tournament...

heights any lower in singles. But as doubles partnership they are good enough, when feeling frisky, to beat almost any team almost anywhere...

Anders Jarryd and Hans Simonsson 3-6, 6-1, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1, in two hours and 42 minutes. Mayer had to leave the court in the fourth set for what is known as a "bathroom break"...

Seguso lost two service games. In two previous matches he had only three break points against him. But these youngsters specialized in service returns...

No stopping Becker on his way up

Boris Becker, who has risen quickly to become one of the game's most exciting prospects, reached the semi-finals of the Belgian American Young Masters tournament in Birmingham yesterday...

Noah sweeps Lendl aside in tie-breaker

Las Vegas (Reuters) - Yannick Noah, of France, finished strongly to beat Ivan Lendl, of Czechoslovakia, the second seed, 7-6, 6-7, 6-1 in the Challenge of Champions tennis tournament here...

Miss Wood drops only two games

Jane Wood yesterday reached the final of the 18 and under covered court championships sponsored by Prudential at Telford...

Law man from North blows in

A biting north wind, which brought a brief flurry of snow at midday, blew away two former winners of the President's Putter at Rye yesterday...

Hughes has no alibi for his long lullaby

Ray Reardon spent three hours hearing Eugene Hughes 5-1 in the Mercantile Credit Classics at Warrington yesterday, then spoke of his frustration at the slow play...

FOR THE RECORD

SWIMMING: Fayetteville, Arkansas: International short course (25m) meeting (US unless stated): Women's 200m freestyle relay: 1:58.22 (USA)...

GOLF

NOAH'S VICTORY REVIVED HIS CHANCES OF GOING THROUGH TO THE FINAL. TO DO SO HE MUST BEAT VITAS GERULAITIS, OF AMERICA, AND LENDI MUST DEFEAT GUILLERMO VILAS, OF ARGENTINA...

YACHTING

WINGS WILL NOT WORK IN WEST AUSTRALIAN SEAS. Perth, Australia (AFP) - The winged keel will not help boats taking part in the 1986-87 America's Cup series...

ICE HOCKEY

NORTH AMERICA: National League (NHL): Vancouver Canucks 8, New Jersey Devils 4, Hartford Whalers 5, Detroit Red Wings 2, Los Angeles Kings 2, Montreal Canadiens 2, Calgary Flames 3, Boston Bruins 2, Minnesota North Stars 3, Los Angeles Kings 3...

BASKETBALL

UNITED STATES: National Association (NBA): Cleveland Cavaliers 103, Washington Bullets 93, Milwaukee Bucks 111, Los Angeles Lakers 107, Phoenix Suns 100, Dallas Mavericks 115, Portland Trail Blazers 122, Seattle SuperSonics 88, Indiana Pacers 112, Golden State Warriors 94...

REAL TENNIS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Singles: Under-94 open singles: First round: A Page 11 (Swi), S. G. 6-2, 6-2; M. Ryan (Haw) 11 (M. Lacy), 6-2, 6-2; M. P. (Aus) 11 (M. P. (Aus)), 6-2, 6-2; R. Hudson (Aus) 11 (M. P. (Aus)), 6-2, 6-2...

FOOTBALL: COMBINATION

FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Bristol Rovers v Fulham: postponed. FA VASE: Third round replay: Exeter City v Exeter City. FA YOUTH CUP: Third round: Leicester 0, Huddersfield 2. CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Stoke 0, Sheffield Wednesday 1.

CYCLING

BRITISH: Six-day race: 1. J. Knapton (N. Park) 100, 2. H. G. (N. Park) 100, 3. G. (N. Park) 100, 4. G. (N. Park) 100, 5. G. (N. Park) 100, 6. G. (N. Park) 100...

GOLF

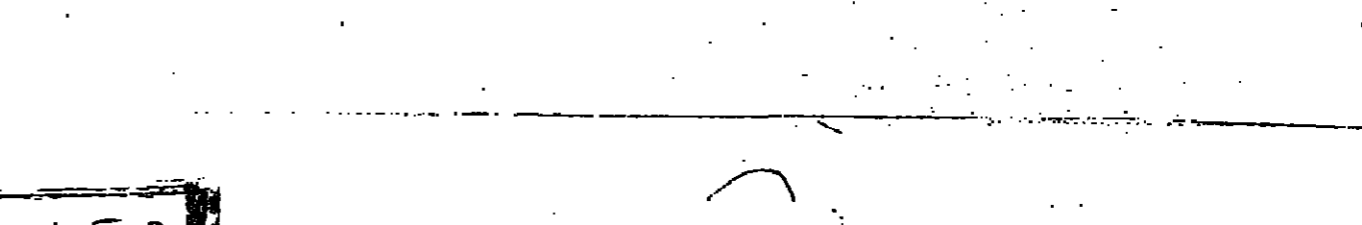
PEBBLE BEACH: California: Invitational Tournament (played on three courses): 1st round (US unless stated): S. Eastwood 67, B. Brooks 69, T. Noma, J. Miller, C. Whitworth, 61 D. Gierz 70, P. Costantini 68...

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCHES: Ryeleigh Park 20, Durham University 17, Cheltenham 19, RAF 4.

WINGS WILL NOT WORK IN WEST AUSTRALIAN SEAS

Perth, Australia (AFP) - The winged keel will not help boats taking part in the 1986-87 America's Cup series, according to one of the men behind the defence of the trophy...



The fruits of Eden Gardens turn sour for Gavaskar

From John Woodcock in Calcutta

We came somewhere near to a riot in the third Test match here yesterday...



Gavaskar: finger of suspicion; and Gower, who pointed his bat accusingly at India's captain

Gavaskar seemed intent to kill the game stone dead through from lunchtime on Thursday the only side with any chance of winning must have been India...

Existing atmosphere than through any 'initiative' from the Indian captain. Eventually, through a tunnel of perilous misses...

Sivaramakrishnan, the boy prodigy, Gower, who has been struggling even in the nets, had the utmost difficulty in locating the middle of the bat...

By a happy irony, the player who was most reluctant to leave the field - he even remonstrated with the umpires - when the light went, leaving six overs unbowed, was Gavaskar.

Australia omit Holland

The triangular one-day World Series Cup opens in Melbourne tomorrow with a match between Australia and West Indies.

Each country will play the other five times and the two leading sides will meet in a best-of-three final at the start of next month.

Richardson, who has been chosen after a good performance against New South Wales in a semi-final match of the one-day McDonald's Cup...

England were seven for 204 in their second innings after Australia had declared on Thursday at 326 for nine in reply to England's first innings total of 275.

Hodges adds sparkle to drawn match

Brisbane (AP) - The third women's four-day international between England and Australia ended half an hour before the end of play yesterday after the captains agreed that no result would be possible.

Silver Star is destroyed

Hong Kong (Reuters) - Silver Star, the racehorse who threw two leading jockeys - Brian Taylor, who later died, and Philippe Paquet, who was seriously injured...

Honeyghan vows to make up for lost time

Perth (Reuters) - Lloyd Honeyghan, of Britain promises to make up for lost time when he competes in the European welterweight title fight today.

Girardelli goes clear in blizzard

Bad Wiessee, West Germany (AP) - Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg skied two flawless runs to score an overwhelming victory in a World Cup slalom yesterday.

Boxing

Perth (Reuters) - Lloyd Honeyghan, of Britain promises to make up for lost time when he competes in the European welterweight title fight today.

Warwick

GOING: soft. (7.30am inspection) 1.15 LEASOWES NOVICE HURDLE (Div II; £912; 2m) (18 runners)

Warwick selections

1.15 Corn Street. 1.45 Sacred Path. 2.15 Dingbat. 2.45 Emperor Charles. 3.15 Bartrude. 3.45 Bold Illusion.

Course specialists

SANDOWN TRAINERS: D Goddard 8 winners from 41 runners, 19.5%; B Mather 7 from 37, 18.9%; J Water 25 from 141, 17.8%; J Jockeys: B Smith 14 winners from 77 rides, 22.7%; P Barton 11 from 52, 21.2%; J Freeman 24 from 124, 19.3%.

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Stamina test should bring out the best in Canny Danny

Canny Danny, from Jimmy Fitzgerald's in-form Yorkshire stable, is taken to win the Anthony Mildmay, Peter Cazale Memorial Handicap Chase at Sandown Park today...

Prospects bright at Sandown

The meeting scheduled for Haydock Park today has been cancelled because of frost and the meeting at Warwick, where there is a 7.30 am inspection, is also in jeopardy...

Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup and more recently when winning the SGB Handicap Chase at Ascot. A 4lb penalty means that Canny Danny must now carry 11st 11lb and give a stone and more to his four rivals.

The way that West Trip finished at the end of three miles at Newbury a week ago suggested that he, too, is crying out for this sort of test and with only 10st to carry I regard him as Canny Danny's principle threat...

SANDOWN PARK

GOING: good to soft. [Televisec: 1.30, 2.0, 2.30] Total: Double 2.0, S.O. Treble 1.30, 2.30, 3.30. 1.0 EXPRESS CHASE (27.75; 2m 18yd) (4 runners)

Sandown selections

1.0 Ryeman. 1.30 WING AND A PRAYER (Nap). 2.0 Canny Danny. 2.30 Beat The Retreat. 3.0 Cool Gin. 3.30 Firing Party.

1.30 RESTAURANTS TOLWORTH HURDLE (Grade II; £4,305; 2m)

2.0 ANTHONY MILDMAI, PETER CAZALE MEMORIAL HANDBAP CHASE (E10,325; 3m 18yd) (5)

WARWICK

GOING: soft. (7.30am inspection) 1.15 LEASOWES NOVICE HURDLE (Div II; £912; 2m) (18 runners)

WARWICK selections

1.15 Corn Street. 1.45 Sacred Path. 2.15 Dingbat. 2.45 Emperor Charles. 3.15 Bartrude. 3.45 Bold Illusion.



Lean Ar Aghaidh, one of the fancied contenders for today's Anthony Mildmay, Peter Cazale Chase at Sandown

Lean Ar Aghaidh, one of the fancied contenders for today's Anthony Mildmay, Peter Cazale Chase at Sandown

rider may have erred on the side of over-confidence. So in this instance I have no hesitation in going nap on Wing And A Prayer, who in any case will be meeting him on 4lb better terms than is laid down in the weight-for-age scale.

Firing Party, a very easy 10-length winner at Kempton a couple of days after Christmas, also looks poised to triumph again in the Park Street Novices' Handicap Hurdle.

2.30 INTERLUDE DE TABALLAU NOVICE HURDLE (4-y-o; £1,895; 2m)

4.01 211111 BEAT THE RETREAT (CD) (D Steele) J Jenkins 11-8 S Smith 20.00

3.0 LA GAVROCHE NOVICE CHASE (E5,152; 2m 4f 69yd) (7)

501 033-211 COOL INN (P Christoforo) P Hayes 8-11-0 R Rowe

3.30 47 PARK STREET NOVICE HANDBAP HURDLE (E2,330; 2m 5f 75 yd) (11)

602 430-01 ASHLONE (P) (S Thadde) S Mather 6-11-7 M Parry

WARWICK

2.45 HATTON NOVICE CHASE (E1,458; 3m) (13)

WARWICK selections

1.15 Corn Street. 1.45 Sacred Path. 2.15 Dingbat. 2.45 Emperor Charles. 3.15 Bartrude. 3.45 Bold Illusion.

1.45 ALDERMINSTER HANDBAP HURDLE (E1,837; 2m 5f) (12)

7 4972 SACRED PATH (COMB) O Shewell 6-11-7 C Con 7

2.15 MYTON HANDBAP CHASE (E3,121; 2m 4f) (8)

1 1100 GAMBLING PRIZE (CD) Mrs G Jones 11-11-0 J Dwyer



RUGBY LEAGUE

Leeds up for the down-under derby at Hull

By Keith Macklin

Thick overnight frost on the coast threatens today's second semi-final between Hull and Leeds in the John Player Special Trophy. However, officials at Boothferry Road football ground were last night reasonably confident that the game would go ahead provided the frost was not too ferocious. The Rugby League is anxious that the game should go ahead with a tight League and Cup schedule and the final is due to be played on January 26. Hull and Leeds have been regular opponents in Cup competitions during the past few years with honours roughly even. Leeds the holders of the trophy, have been strengthened this week by the arrival of the giant Australian winger Eric Grothe, and they have a solid squad of Australians to back up the distinct Hull advantage of playing on a ground only a stone's throw from their own Boulevard. With the Hull team liberally sprinkled with New Zealand internationals, the game will feature several Antipodean rivalries, and Hull have the added incentive of seeking to create another all Flamboroughshire final. Hull Kingston Rovers are already through following last week's victory over Halifax, but I take Leeds to overturn the odds today.

WEEKEND FIXTURES

Table of weekend fixtures for FA Cup, Scottish Cup, Welsh Cup, and various league matches.

BRITISH MARRIAGES, DEATHS and BIRTHS. Announcements published by the Registrar General...

BIRTHS. BRICKWOOD - On January 2nd to Colin and Rose a son Samuel Thomas George...

DEATHS. ADAMS - On January 1st 1985, after a long illness, at the age of 82, Mrs. Mary Adams...

PERSONAL COLUMNS

IN MEMORIAM. DAVIS - Christopher John, first born of the late Mrs. Davis, who died on January 1st 1985...

ANNOUNCEMENTS. THE JOURNAL ENIGMAS Director Timothy Soper...

TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE. Young people, please note that the Department of Education...

WANTED. HOUSE contents in whole or part. I am looking for a house...

WANTED. ANTIQUE & PRE 20'S FURNITURE. Any desk, bookcases, chairs, tables, etc...

RESISTA CARPETS SALE. SUPER MERRALON VELVET RILE CARPET. 14 COLOURS FROM STOCK...

PEAT FUEL. A 50 kg bag, bagged and easy to carry, delivered to your door...

AFGHAN SLIPPER SOCKS £3.95. The perfect gift for feet of all ages. Only £3.95 per pair plus 65p p&p...

UK HOLIDAYS

Swap chaotic airports and crowded beaches for fishing, a sailing, canoeing, riding, walking holiday where the people speak your language.

Forestry Commission. We'll show you kids the ropes. Abseiling is just one of the 40 exciting activities you'll find on our 55,000 kids of all ages from 6-18 have chosen PGL...

4 Superb Hotels for the price of 1. Four superb 3-star hotels on Bournemouth's beautiful East Cliff. All close to the beach, shops, clubs, restaurants and each other.

QUADRANT GROUP OF HOTELS. Dept. 72, 16 Gervis Road, East Cliff, Bournemouth BH1 3BQ. Tel: (0202) 294466.

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BLADON LINES. 309 Brompton Road, London SW3 2DZ. Reservations: 01-785 2200. Manchester Desks: 0422 211220.

SUNDAY RADIO. From facing page. WORLD SERVICE. 600 Newsday, 7.30 World News, 7.55-8.00 Newsday, 8.00-8.15 World News...

MUST BE SEEN. Superb leather jacket of prime styled and exceptional quality for £1,700. Tel: 01-947 8160.

FOR SALE. SUPERB quality wood carpet. At the moment £299.00 per room. Large room size, 12' x 12'.

WANTED. ANTIQUE & PRE 20'S FURNITURE. Any desk, bookcases, chairs, tables, etc. in any style.

FOR SALE. SUPERB quality wood carpet. At the moment £299.00 per room. Large room size, 12' x 12'.

MEMORIAL SERVICES. The Unit will be held on Friday, 11th January, 1985, at 11.00 am, at All Saints Church, 111 St. John's Road, London W14 8JH.

Saturday

Television and radio programmes  
Summaries: Peter Dear, Peter Davalle

Sunday

- BBC 1
8.30 The Parishes, with the voice of Leonard Foster as Boot...
12.15 Grandstand introduced by Desmond Lynam...
5.05 News with Moira Stuart 5.15, Sport/Regional news.

- TV-am
6.15 Good Morning Britain presented by Henry Kelly...
ITV/LONDON
8.25 LWT Information: 8.30...
12.15 World of Sport introduced by Desmond Lynam...
5.05 News with Moira Stuart 5.15, Sport/Regional news.



Jenny Agutter as Rosaline and Maureen Lipman as the Princess of France: Love's Labour's Lost (BBC 2, 4.55pm)

- BBC 2
9.00 Ceetax.
10.10 Open University: Start Your Own Business...
12.15 World of Sport introduced by Desmond Lynam...
5.05 News with Moira Stuart 5.15, Sport/Regional news.

- CHANNEL 4
1.00 Everybody Here, multicultural children's programme...
1.30 Film: The Little Princess...
1.50 Ceetax.
1.55 How to Score... a Movie. Trevor Howard introduces this documentary...

- BBC 1
8.55 The Flump (p. 9) 10 de Bono's Thinking Course...
10.00 Asian Magazine...
11.20 Morning Worship from Knocknada Methodist Church...
1.00 This Week Next Week presented by David Dimbleby...

- TV-am
6.55 Good Morning Britain presented by David Frost...
ITV/LONDON
8.25 LWT Information 9.30 Under Five...
10.00 Morning Worship from County Fermanagh...
11.30 News with Moira Stuart 11.45, Sport/Regional news.



Nigel Stock as Mr Pickwick: a 12-part serialisation of 'The Pickwick Papers' begins today (BBC 1, 5.25pm)

- BBC 2
9.00 Ceetax.
10.20 Open University: Science...
12.40 Global Report...
5.05 News with Moira Stuart 5.15, Sport/Regional news.

- CHANNEL 4
1.00 Irish Angle...
1.30 Face the Press...
2.00 Tennis: The WCT 1985 World Doubles Championship...
2.45 Survival: Fish Shares for All...
3.15 The Royal Institution's Christmas Lectures...

- Radio 4
5.55 Shipping, 8.00 News Briefing...
7.00 News, 7.10 Today's Papers...
8.00 News, 8.10 Today's Papers...
10.30 Pick of the Week...
11.30 BBC correspondents talk about the countries they work in...

- Radio 3
6.55 Weather, 7.00 News...
8.05 Schubert's Sonata for Piano...
10.05 Concerto for Piano and Orchestra...
11.05 News, 11.15 Today's Papers...

- Radio 2
On medium wave, I also VHF stereo...
6.00 News, 6.10 Today's Papers...
8.00 News, 8.10 Today's Papers...
10.30 Pick of the Week...

- Radio 1
On medium wave, I also VHF stereo...
6.00 News, 6.10 Today's Papers...
8.00 News, 8.10 Today's Papers...
10.30 Pick of the Week...

- Radio 4
On long wave, I also on VHF...
5.55 Shipping, 8.00 News Briefing...
7.00 News, 7.10 Today's Papers...
8.00 News, 8.10 Today's Papers...
10.30 Pick of the Week...

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On medium wave, I also VHF stereo...
6.00 News, 6.10 Today's Papers...
8.00 News, 8.10 Today's Papers...
10.30 Pick of the Week...

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS
BBC1 Wales: 12.30-12.50pm...
GRANADA As London except...
TSW As London except...
CHANNEL As London except...
TYNE TEES As London except...
HTV WALES As HTV West except...
ANGLIA As London except...
YORKSHIRE As London except...
SAC As London except...
CENTRAL As London except...
HTV WEST As London except...
HTV WALES As HTV West except...

